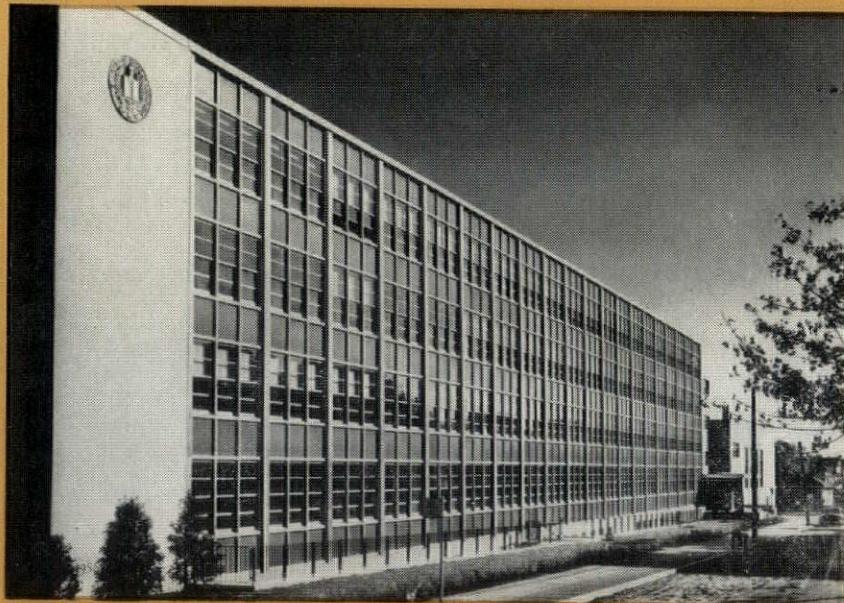


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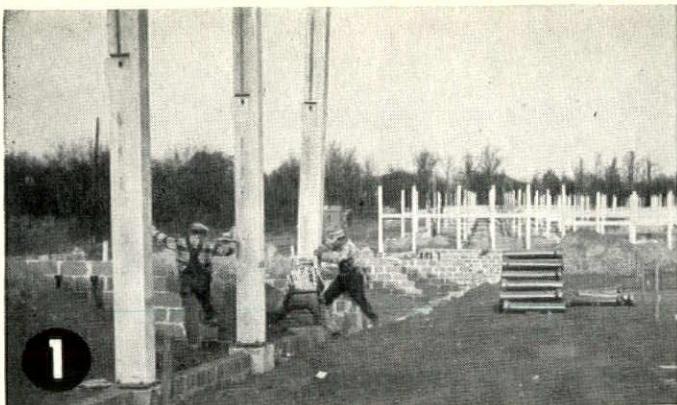
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VOLUME XVIII - NUMBER II

**1**

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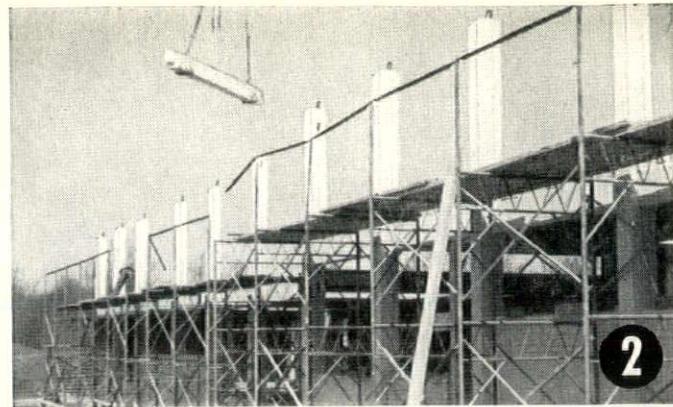
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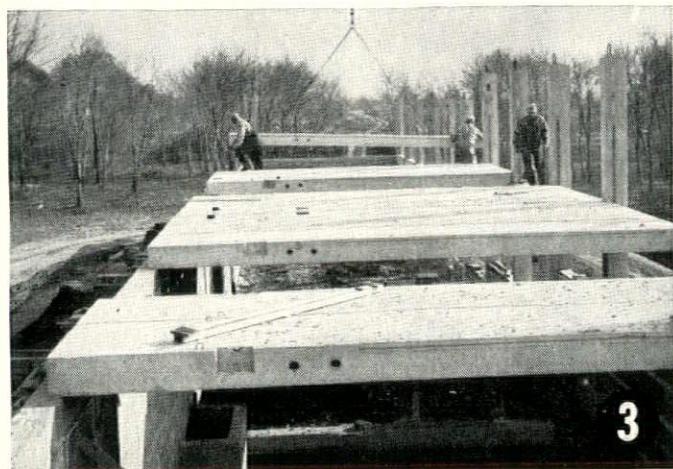
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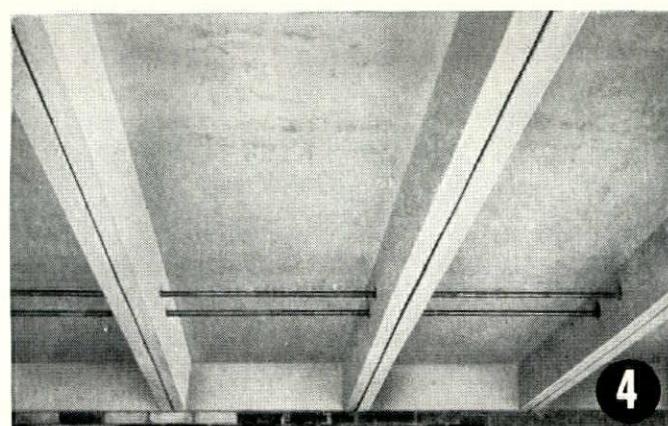
Finished building. Precast roof slabs project 2 ft. to form sunshade.

**2**

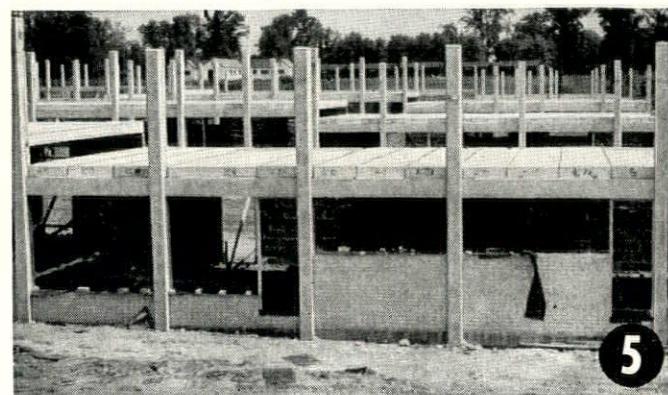
Next, the second floor spandrel beams were lowered into position.

**3**

After rear walls were brought to second floor elevation, 3-ft. wide precast concrete floor channels with 10-in. legs were placed across the entire width of the buildings. Below is a view of the underside of the floor showing how conduits pass through sleeves in the legs.

**4**

General view before roof spandrel beams and roof slabs were erected.

**5****6**



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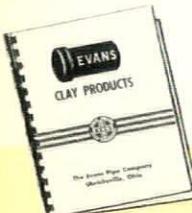
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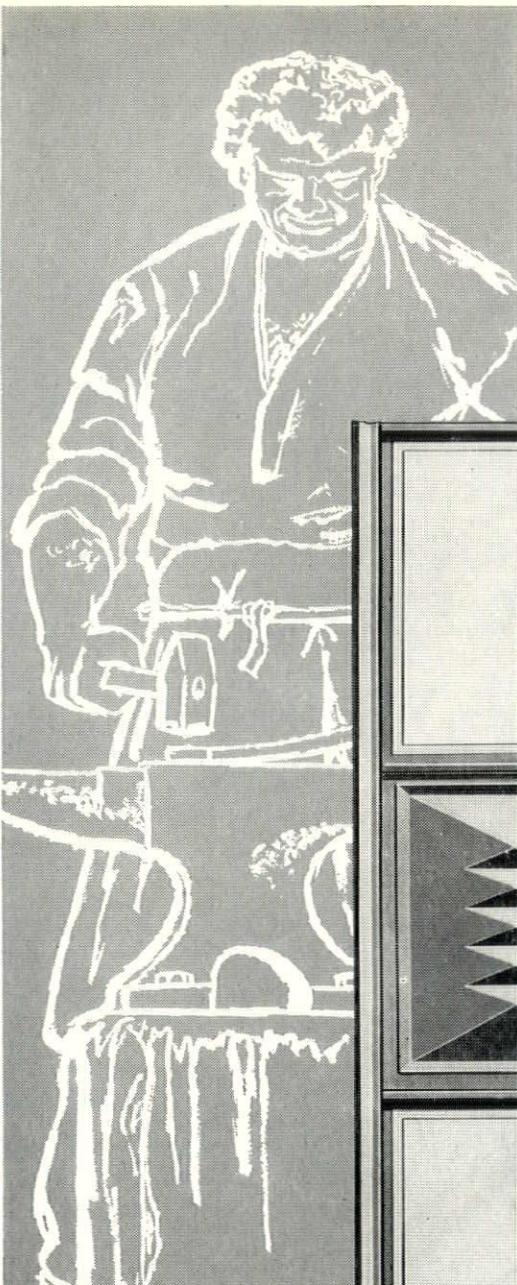
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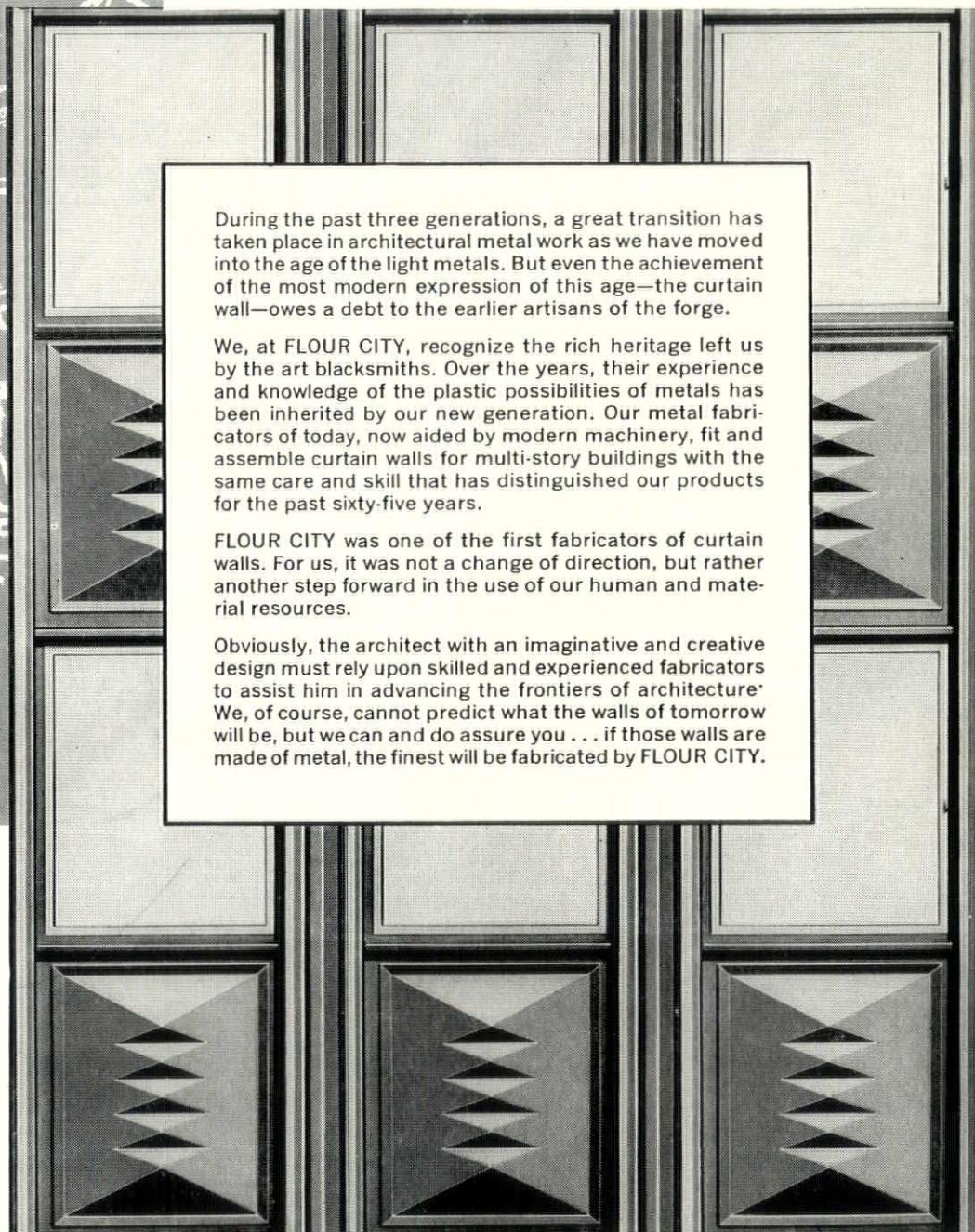


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## March - April Issue — Vol. XVIII, No. II

"Entered as second-class matter March 6, 1943 at the Post Office at Buffalo,  
New York, under the act of March 3, 1879."

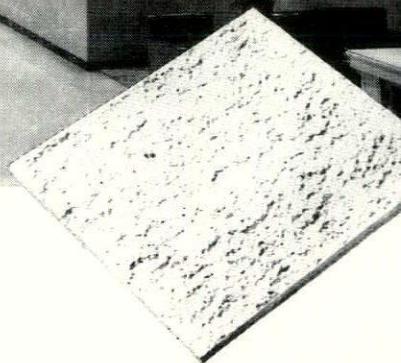
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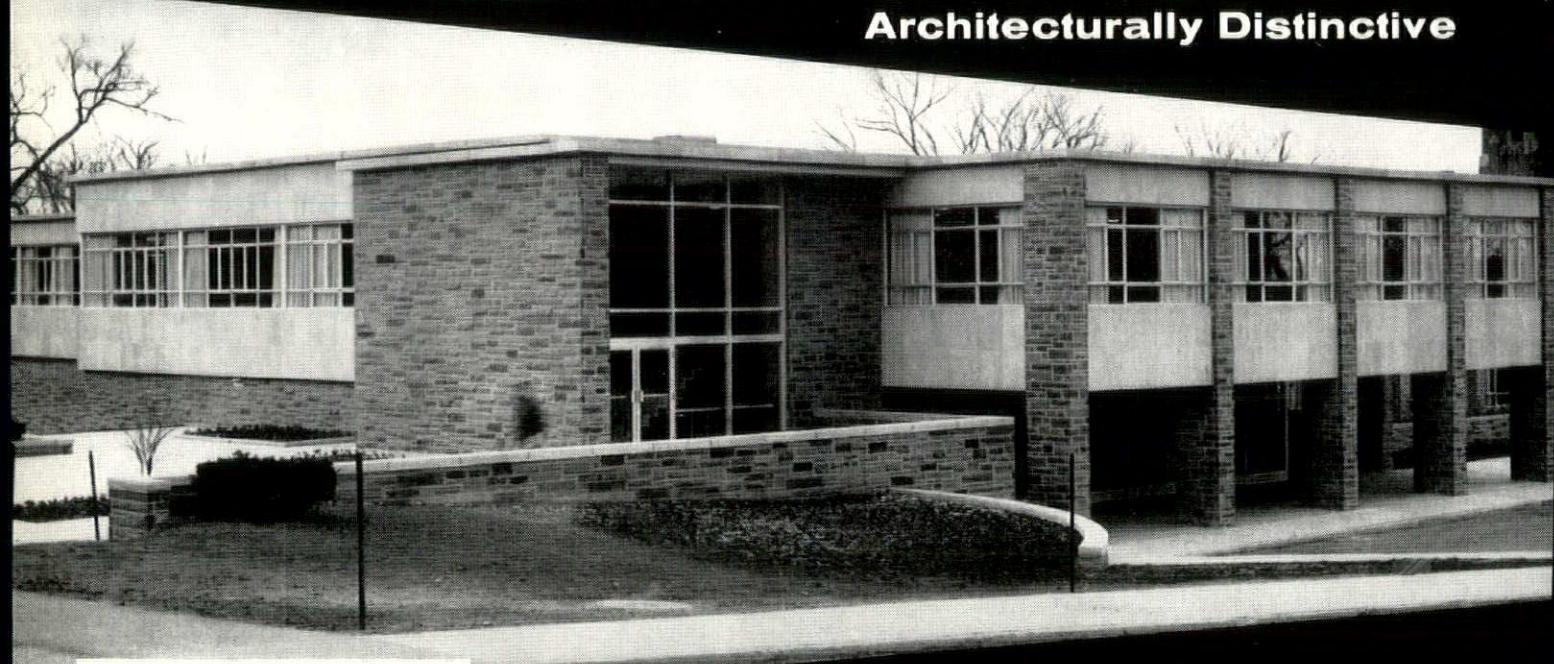
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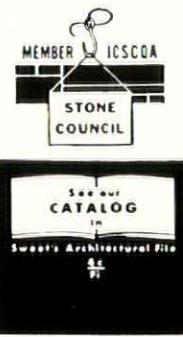
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# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

The activities of N.Y.S.A.A. have gone into high gear since my last message in these columns.

Committees have held meetings since the first of the year. The Executive Committee has set up a budget for the year which ordinarily would strain all our resources, were it not for the fine cooperation of our constituent organizations and dues paying members who make it possible for us to render the many services expected of your State Association.

The Architects Scholarship Committee has begun to distribute some of the funds donated through the generosity of the New York State Concrete Masonry Association for student assistance. The responses from the deans of the six architectural colleges in New York State as to the most deserving cases were most heart-warming. Chairman George Cummings and his Scholarship Committee has done a most admirable job. It is the sincere hope of the Committee that it can add to the scholarship fund through voluntary contributions and thereby increase financial aid to many more deserving students by the time the fall semesters roll around. More about this later.

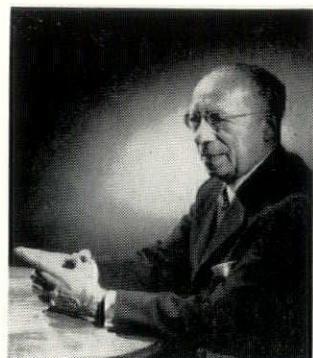
The Convention Committee, headed by First Vice-President John Briggs, has been moving forward with its plans for the 1958 Convention at the Powers Hotel in Rochester, October 16 to 18. Put the dates down now in your diary.

Chairman Charles Ellis, the guardian of our official publication—*The Empire State Architect*, has held several meetings upstate with his "kitchen cabinet" and our executive director which have resulted in some definite improvements in the format of the magazine. The idea for the center spread containing, without interruption, the complete Membership Roster was conceived by Charlie. I believe it a good one. I understand other changes are contemplated in future issues.

The Legislative Committee has held frequent meetings jointly with the Architects Council of New York City and upstate members. The Committee has been reviewing, analyzing, approving or opposing Albany legislation that may affect our profession.

The perennial corporation engineering practice bill has again been introduced and is being vigorously fought as in previous years. May I request every member of N.Y.S.A.A. to register his opposition with the Education Committees of the Senate and Assembly and to communicate with his local legislator urging the defeat of the bill, which in essence violates every principle of individual competency and qualification required of all professions.

Other legislation involving amendments to the Multiple Dwelling Law, the Multiple Residence Law, Labor Law and Education Law have been scrutinized in every detail. On the "firing line" in Albany, all during the session, is our executive director Joe Addonizio, who is in direct contact with every member of the Legislature on all measures evaluated by our N.Y.S.A.A. Legislative Committee so ably guided by co-chairmen Matt Del Gaudio and Richard Roth. When this issue of *Empire State Architect* appears the probable fate of all legislation will have been resolved.



A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry M. Prince". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'H' at the beginning.

HARRY M. PRINCE, President  
New York State Association of Architects

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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DESK AT 441

## Progress Report



The old carpet bag has been very much in use since our last chat in this column. Trips to Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and weekly visits to Albany, our State Capitol, on the alert to watch and report on legislation that affects the profession of architecture.

In January I was a guest of the Buffalo-Western New York Chapter, where I had the privilege of addressing the largest dinner-meeting gathering the chapter has had in several years. I was truly flattered. Bob Stoll, chapter president, was a masterful presiding officer and cordial host. It was pleasant to see such friendly faces as immediate junior past president, Trev Rogers, Cy Tucker of Rochester who shared the speaking chores for the evening, playwright Tom Imbs, Mort Wolfe, Ros Pfohl and many many others.

A week later I was in Rochester as a guest of the Rochester Society at a well-attended noon luncheon meeting, presided over by that most debonair of constituent organization presidents, Allen Macomber. Rochester past presidents on hand included Don Faragher and Nick Masucci. That same evening at a dinner-meeting, 1958 Convention chairman, John Briggs, and his excellent committee formulated plans for the October Convention to be held at the Powers Hotel in Rochester. Without revealing any secrets, I can assure our State Association membership that there is a real treat ahead. Incidentally, my Rochester trip began in New York at 6 A.M. and ended at midnight from the point of origin—all in one day.

More recently I was in Syracuse for a meeting with chairman Charlie Ellis and the Publication Committee. Editor Warren Wittek and vice chairman Milton Milstein munched in from Buffalo through a terrific 36-inch snow storm. Your executive director was able to train in and plane out of snow-bound Syracuse within the span of 24 hours.

By the way, how did you like the Membership Roster issue in its new format in January-February *Empire State Architect*? We have a limited number of Rosters available at \$10. a copy. Send check with order to our headquarters office at 441 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

Since the legislature convened in Albany on January 8th, your executive director has been on the scene for every session as an interested observer and reporter. The Legislative Committee has held frequent meetings and reviewed many of the bills that relate to laws with which the architect must work. Our old "enemy," the corporate practice engineering bill, made its appearance and immediately legislative co-chairmen Matt Del Gaudio and Dick Roth despatched communications to all constituent organizations to unite their might in defeating this pernicious measure. A Resolution by Assemblyman Goddard of Monroe County creating an architectural section in the State Education Department was likewise the target for all our guns. By the time you will be reading this column we hope to report the defeat of both legislative proposals.

As I write this I am looking forward to visits to the Queens and Staten Island Chapters. I am especially anticipating a pleasant social and international visit that holds many educational possibilities for me when I attend, as a guest of John Miller, the annual Convention of the Ontario Association of Architects at Toronto, Canada. Look for a detailed report in the next issue of the *Empire State Architect*.

I hope, dear friends and correspondents, you can understand why I may have delayed slightly responding to your letters addressed to me at 441.

See you soon.

A large, flowing cursive signature of Joseph F. Radonized, written in black ink. The signature is highly stylized and expressive, with many loops and variations in line thickness.

Executive Director

# DIAMOND CLUB BUILDING

NEW YORK CITY

SYLVAN & ROBERT L. BIEN, *Architects*

Builders of Manhattan have been confronted with some weird technical problems over the years, as a result of space limitations, owners' special needs and/or subsoil conditions peculiar to the terrain. It is doubtful, however, if a metropolitan construction team ever faced a more unusual series of problems or solved them more ingeniously, than in the case of the new 10-story Diamond Club Building at 30-34 West 47th Street.

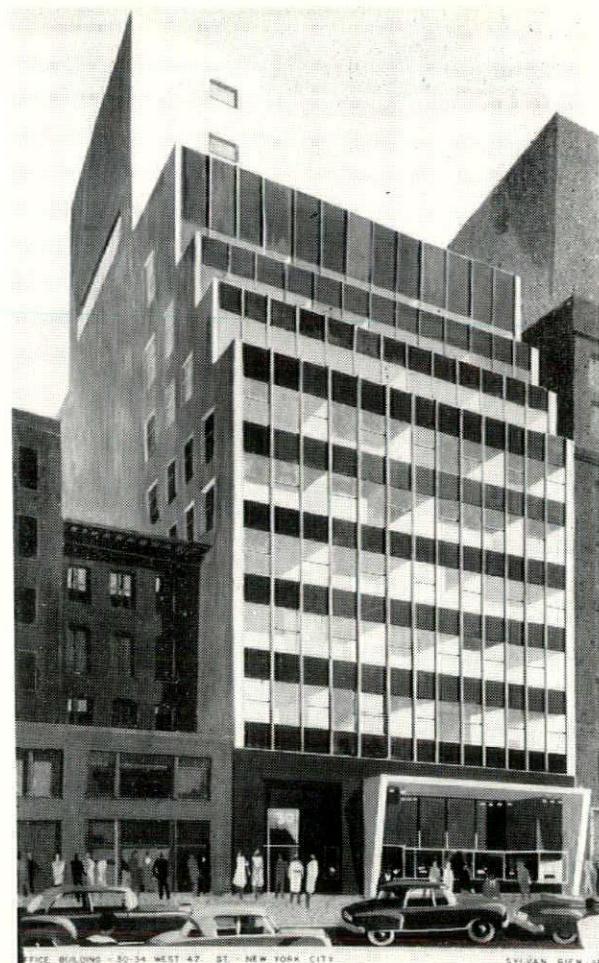
Here architects and contractors were called upon to erect a fully self-sufficient structure over a previously existing one-story building, which they could not disturb. They had to do this on a site where initial borings showed an underguard rock level varying from 9 to 40 feet below cellar level and an underguard water condition. During construction, they were prohibited from disturbing the business of about 125 retail jewel merchants occupying booths in the original ground-floor structure, above a vault where some \$20 millions in gems was continuously stored.

Trim and elegant in its skin of oxford-grey aluminum panels with facade of pearl-grey polished granite, the Diamond Club Building shows no mark of the effort that went into its planning and construction. It is a handsome, ultramodern building, the design of which makes it appear somewhat taller than it actually is. Three setbacks in front and four in the rear accentuate the effect of height. Vertical effect is further emphasized by bright mullions of satin-finish aluminum, four inches wide, dividing an otherwise unbroken expanse of windows on the street side.

Concentration of New York's diamond trade in one building is expected to produce useful results; for example, to end curbstone trading, facilitate transfers, and reduce risk through centralized protection of some of the costliest merchandise on earth. According to Andre Benel, vice-president of Brown, Harris, Stevens, Inc., rental agents, few if any vacancies are anticipated by opening date. Since the building will be largely tenanted by diamond merchants and their wares, it would not be stretching a point to describe this building, with its 40,000 square feet, as an acre of pure diamonds.

To achieve their purpose, the owners acquired a 20 by 100 foot plot adjoining the ground-floor building where the Fifth Avenue Jewelers Exchange was already installed on a 40 by 100 foot site. This added frontage gave the architects space in which to place elevators, stairs and other facilities needed to service a 10-story office building topped by a 4-story set-back tower. It also provided an entrance through which construction materials and workmen could move in carefully scheduled order.

Sylvan Bien, who with his son Robert Bien, has designed office structure that deserve to be included in any architectural tour of postwar Manhattan, also confesses that planning the Diamond Club Building gave his firm its knottiest problem in a distinguished career.



OFFICE BUILDING - 30-34 WEST 47. ST. - NEW YORK CITY

SYLVAN BIEN

In the well-known twin office buildings designed by this firm at 260 and 261 Madison Avenue, and their sister-building at 625 Madison Avenue (which, incidentally, involved some addition to and strengthening of an earlier structure) the architects had whole block-fronts in which to spread themselves. Here, however, in a narrow cavity between two other buildings, the sternest economy of space as well as the most careful attention to placing of columns and weight-loads was required.

To carry the upper stories, it was found necessary to devise some means of bridging over the existing structure, without bringing columns down into it. Since the west wall of the one-story Jewelers' Exchange was a party wall, shared in common with a 20-story building, there could be no question of placing columns on that side. Columns, it appeared, could only be placed outside of the east wall of the Exchange, which adjoined the newly purchased plot. Though various schemes were suggested including Verandahl trusses and plate girders, none answered the \$100,000 question: how to support the super-structure on the west side?

A sound answer was finally evolved by Weinberger and Weishoff, structural engineers, in the third set of plans submitted by them. This involves a structural steel truss, weighing 100 tons, that spans the building from front to rear and rests on two giant steel girders five feet high and 60 feet long—one in front and one in back. The twin girders are in turn supported by three pairs of steel columns.

Two pairs of columns were conveniently placed in the new 20-foot lot. In the end, it proved necessary to puncture the original building only at two relatively

harmless points. One doublestrength column, supporting the front girder, now cuts through a former ladies' lavatory and the other, supporting the rear girder, through an erstwhile storeroom. Ladies, it may be noted, though so often the final recipients of the gems seldom visit the Jewelers' Exchange where diamonds for the big Fifth Avenue show-windows are purchased.

The truss itself, now discreetly hidden behind the smooth outer surfaces of the new structure, is a fabulous affair. Twenty-two feet high by 90 feet long, it is composed of wide flange sections and large gusset plates, supplied by the American Bridge Company. First erected on a cradle of two 36" wide-flange beams, it was finally jacked into position.

In all, 750 tons of steel went into the Diamond Club Building—not counting the steel lining of the new vault, with space for 3000 diamond strong boxes, constructed at cellar level. Result is a building whose frame and foundations, including a sub-cellars built to house air-conditioning and other equipment are considered sturdy enough to resist almost any force of nature or of man. At the same time its tenants can enjoy all those refinements which modern invention and

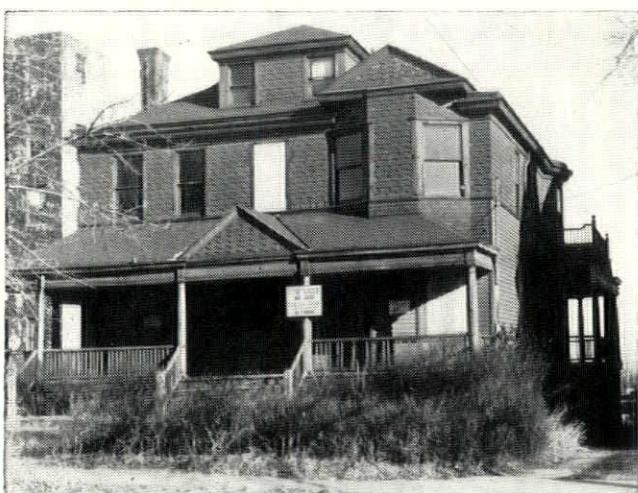
post-war industry offer to the successful businessman.

A novel feature of Diamond Club architecture is that, in addition to filling two floors in the new structure, it will continue to maintain its old quarters at the same floor level in an adjoining building at 36 West 47th Street. Doorways have been opened between the old quarters and the new, so that the Club is in the curious position of leasing connecting space in two buildings from two separate landlords.

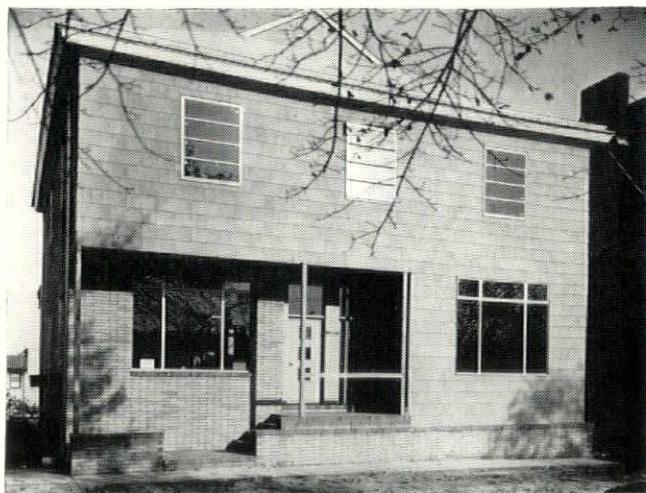
Three high-speed elevators with doors of stainless steel will whisk the kings of diamonds from lobby to office to club. While the elevators are fully automatic, for obvious reasons of security, they will not be self-service. Protection of the building and its contents is by Holmes Electric Protection, which makes use of both electrical and human forces according to a formula undisclosed. It may be assumed, however, that Holmes men are ever close at hand—and mingled quietly with the workmen all the while construction was underway. In fact, the Diamond Club Building, unique in so many ways, is one of the few ever to be erected under the supervision of the world's most up-to-date private detective agency.

## ARCHITECT'S OWN OFFICE BUILDING

ALBERT MELNIKER, *Architect*



BEFORE ALTERATION



AFTER ALTERATION

A year ago this March, Architect Melniker purchased the old residence shown on this page and immediately set about to convert the structure into an office building.

The first floor was remodeled and altered to accommodate Mr. Melniker's office suite and a Dental Suite. The second floor was divided into six rental offices, corridor space and tenant toilet facilities. The basement is largely devoted to storage space but also contains the boiler room and an employees' rest room.

The existing foundation walls were repaired and extended to accommodate new work. Porches, dormers and bay windows were all removed. Existing windows were replaced with aluminum awning windows. Roof

and walls were insulated with fiberglass, and covered with asphalt strip shingle roofing and asbestos siding. The interior was replastered and painted, acoustic ceilings were installed and a new floor covering was laid.

Plumbing, Heating and Electric work was completely replaced throughout the building.

On December 29, open house was held for the formal opening of the renovated building. Among those who attended were Matthew Del Gaudio, Regional Director of the A.I.A.; Joseph Aldinizzio, Executive Director N.Y.S.A.A.; Hon. Albert Manisculco, President, Borough of Richmond; and Prof. Walter Willig, President, Staten Island Community College.

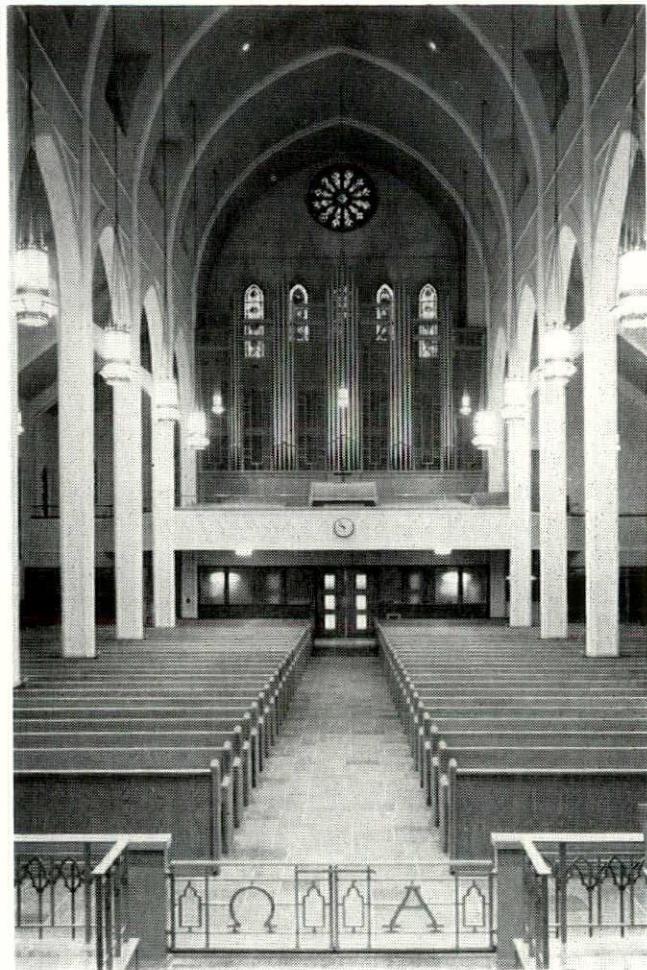
# ST. VINCENT DEPAUL CHURCH

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

PEDERSON & HUEBER, *Architects*



BEFORE



AFTER

On December 7, 1955 a spectacular and disastrous fire virtually destroyed the roof and entire interior of the Victorian Gothic St. Vincent DePaul Church erected in 1897. The fire spreading through the wooden superstructure outraced the valiant efforts of the firemen and the roof collapsing bay by bay dumped tons of slate and masonry into the church proper. The remaining walls, floor structure, tower and spire were carefully inspected and it was determined that it would be possible to reconstruct the building. The pastor, Rt. Rev. Monsignor David C. Gildea, and the trustees of the church, after considerable study of the prospect of rebuilding versus demolishing the remaining structure and starting anew on the existing site or an alternate location, decided to rebuild and preserve one of the city's prominent landmarks.

Included in the rebuilding program was the lowering of the first floor of the church to eliminate a number of steps when streets surrounding the original building were lowered some twenty years ago. The basement of the building in the new program was to

be made into an active Social Hall for parish activities. Air conditioning and radiant heating were also included in the new program along with snow melting for exterior sidewalks.

Interior design of the Victorian era could not be duplicated at anywhere near a reasonable cost together with the fact that a design of a more contemporary feeling would be more logical resulted in a greatly simplified interior design which was correlated with contemporary altars designed and executed by the Rambusch Decorating Co. The height of the interior of the church was increased considerably by lowering the nave floor four feet and raising the apex of the plaster vaulting to a point above the Rose Window at the west front which was formerly in the attic above the original ceiling.

The Munich stained glass windows suffered during the fire but fortunately photographs of the windows most seriously damaged were available and the restoration was true and authentic. The fact that these windows of great value could be restored had considerable

bearing on the fact that the church was rebuilt.

The nave features natural slate aisles, terrazzo under the pews, oak wainscoting and a combination of acoustic plaster and sanded plaster walls and ceiling. The original Stations of the Cross were removed from the church after the fire, the heavy plaster Gothic frames and surrounds removed and after repairing and redecorating set flush in the new walls. The nave lanterns also removed from the old building were inverted and relamped to bring them to modern standards and reinstalled in the renovated building. The lectern now installed in the sanctuary is actually the remodeled pulpit from the original building redesigned for new location. The sanctuary has a wood

block floor throughout with an 18' wainscot of oak as background for the red marble main altar. An anodized aluminum rail separates the raised sanctuary from the nave and the communion rail at the nave level is also of anodized aluminum.

The project was of special interest to the architects since all furnishings were designed directly by them or under their supervision and Mr. Hueber's grandfather and great-uncle were general contractors for the original building and Mr. Hueber's father, Mr. Paul Hueber, architect, designed the Blessed Virgin side altar which although damaged was reinstalled in the sanctuary and Mr. Paul Hueber had designed a new baptistry and side entrances in previous years.

## PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

CHARLES ROCKWELL ELLIS, *Architect*



BEFORE



AFTER

These "before" and "after" photographs illustrate more forcefully than words the nature of many problems confronted by our profession and an accepted solution of the same.

In this project many of the memorial gifts, an accumulation over the years, were discarded and the organ moved to special chambers faced in part by the grille work visible in the photograph.

The inner arch was completely concealed by the organ and its existence was unknown to most of the parishioners. A minimum of demolition was required except for replacement of the chancel floor.

The design of portions of the chancel screen were dictated by the upper members of the existing wainscoting in the nave.

The chancel furniture consisting of reredos, retable, sedilia, altar, lectern, pulpit, choir pews and screens is of American walnut, designed and detailed by the architect and built under his supervision.

Completed in 1948, the alterations including a new electric system, and redecoration totalled \$30,095.00. The entire cost of the furniture installed was \$12,459.00, bringing a total cost of the modernization to \$42,554.00, exclusive of professional fees.

# THE OCTAGON FAD

## INSTALLMENT I

BY CARL F. SCHMIDT

The 1850's could be called the decade of the octagons, because it was during this ten year period that most of the strange eight-sided buildings were erected. We find examples of the octagon mode in more than twenty states as well as in Canada, but the greatest number of them are to be found in the state of New York.

The 1850's were stirring years. The age of homespun was over and industrialization was making itself felt. Steam power boilers were being put to work in nearly every small community. The farmers of New York State were being challenged by the farmers of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. They were turbulent years in the field of politics, the agitation over slavery, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, the Missouri Compromise and the Dred Scott Decision made people aware of the difficult days ahead.

It was a period of architectural and building revolution. The Victorian style was rapidly replacing the Greek Revival and the Victorian was a very strange style. It was not centered upon one particular type of construction or design, but permitted a choice by the owner or builder of several styles or types. There were Tudor Gothic manors, Elizabethan mansions, Italian villas, rural Gothic cottages and bracketed houses from which to choose.



A new type of construction, the "balloon frame" was rapidly supplanting the timber frame. It was much easier to erect and more economical. All these various impacts were bound to effect the thinking of the people, and they would be receptive to new ideas if skillfully presented. Orson Fowler's book, "A Home for All" was all that was needed to start the fad of octagonal houses.

The idea of eight-sided and round buildings was not new. The Tower of the Winds, built by the Greeks about 300 B.C. was in the form of an octagon, and throughout the Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance eras, octagonal and circular structures were built.

Many of the Dutch that settled in and around New York probably saw or even attended octagonal churches in Holland. The followers of Calvin in Hol-

land were more interested in preaching than in the beautiful examples of architecture associated with the Catholic Church. The octagon form was better adapted to preaching than was the church with a long narrow nave and side aisles. There were octagonal churches in Willemstad, Amsterdam, Maasluis, Jzendijke and Groningen, Holland.

It was the latest fashion in Holland, therefore the people of New Amsterdam built small simple octagonal churches in Bushwick, Guilderland, New Amsterdam and New Utrecht.

We know of nearly twenty small octagonal Dutch Reformed Churches built in the Hudson River Valley between 1680 and 1750 and there were also some in New Jersey.

A six-sided Reformed Church was built on Race Street in Philadelphia in 1747, and in the Builders Magazine of 1776, published in England, there is a design for an octagonal hunting villa as well as an octagonal public library. Also in the book, "Architecture Improved" by Robert Morris, Surveyor, published in 1857, there are designs for an octagonal mausoleum and water house. A small octagonal church was built in Little Falls in 1796 and razed in 1842.

Thomas Jefferson prepared the plans for his octagonal retreat "Popular Forest" near Lynchburg, Virginia, several years before he began its construction in 1806.

A Philadelphia newspaper of February 12th, 1813 states "That on the following Sunday The Octagon Unitarian Church would be opened."

The old National Road, now U. S. Highway 40, was turned over to the State of Pennsylvania in 1835, and soon after, the State built six octagonal toll houses along this road.

In Bucks, Chester, Montgomery and Northampton Counties of Pennsylvania and Hunterdon County in New Jersey more than a score of octagonal school-houses were built between 1815 and 1840.

The idea of the octagonal plan was not new as Fowler claimed. It had been in the minds of architects and builders for centuries.

While Orson Fowler, the Cohocton farm boy, was a student in the theological course at Amherst, he attended a series of lectures by an Austrian scientist in Boston on the subject of phrenology. He and his classmate, Henry Ward Beecher, became enthusiastic in the subject and read the shapes of the heads of their fellow students. Fowler became so accomplished in distinguishing the various characteristics, as friendship, combativeness, ideality, etc. that he was soon lecturing and reading the heads of people in neighboring cities and villages. He was so successful that after graduating in 1834, he abandoned the ministry for a career on the lecture platform on the subject of phrenology. The new science had aroused such universal interest that by 1832 there were in Great Britain more than thirty societies actively interested in its study.

Fowler opened an office in New York and did a thriving business, and it became necessary for him to



train his brother, Lorenzo, and his sister, Charlotte to help him. His lecture tours took him to all parts of the United States as well as into Canada.

The income from his lecture tours and his publications made him a wealthy man, and he began to dream about building a country house along the Hudson. This led him into another field, building, which at that time was receiving its share of public attention. Not only was there a trend of change from the Greek Revival to the Victorian, but steam power mills were able to saw great quantities of lumber. Steam mills were turning out wood mouldings which previously had to be laboriously run out with a hand plane, and new machinery was turning out thumb latches and door hinges by the thousands. There was a surge of building similar to that which took place after World Wars I and II.

There was also a social reform whose object was to build more comfortable houses within the financial status of the working people, and this was something which aroused the sympathy of Orson Fowler.

He probably saw or heard about octagonal plans in his tours, before he began the building of his house near Fishkill in 1848. He also began the writing of his book, "A Home for All," at the same time and it was published in 1849. In a later edition of the same book published in 1853, he tells of a trip to Milton, Wisconsin, in 1850. Here he became acquainted with Joseph Goodrich who had built a six-sided or hexagonal building in 1844-1845. Goodrich built this house as well as several other buildings with a form of concrete using cement, sand, stone and gravel thoroughly mixed wet and placed between boards to form his walls. Fowler writes that he thoroughly examined the walls of the house with a hammer until he was fully satisfied as to their solidity and strength. Goodrich offered to allow him to strike the walls with a sledge, as hard as he pleased, upon the inside of his parlor walls for six cents a blow, which he said would repair all damages.

Fowler called this type of wall "grout" and became very enthusiastic about it. He thought it was original with Goodrich, as he thought the octagonal was "wholly original with the author," of "A Home for All."

Fowler ridiculed the Greek Revival style house with their "finified carvings and cornicings." He said, "the roofs were steeper than necessary, cost more, and absorbed more heat from the sun causing hot bedrooms." The rectangular plan with wings he called, "doubly objectionable," because of the length of its exterior walls compared to the floor area enclosed. "Now," said Fowler, "let us take a box four feet long and a quarter of a foot wide: it contains only one square foot; yet

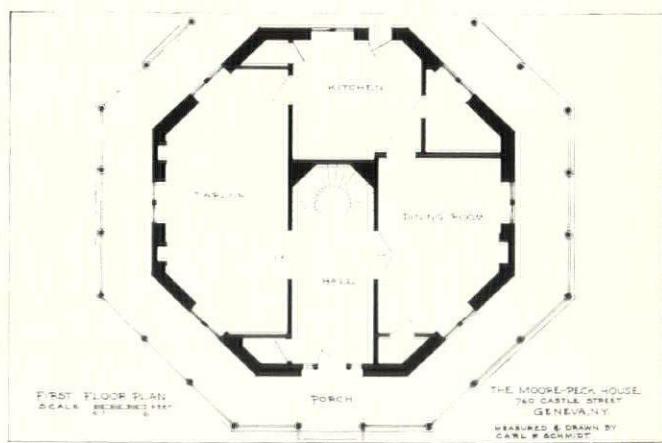
its outside wall is eight and one-half feet. A rectangle two feet long and a half a foot wide; it also contains one square foot, yet it is only five feet in circumference; while a one foot square contains just as much room, yet is only four feet round."

"But is the square form the best of all? Is the right-angle the best angle? Cannot some radical improvement be made, both in the outside form and the internal arrangement of our houses? Nature's forms are mostly spherical. She makes ten thousand curvilinear to one square figure." "Then why not apply her forms to houses? Since a circle encloses more space for its surface, than any other form, of course the nearer spherical our houses, the more inside room for the outside wall, besides being more comfortable." — "Of course the octagon, by approximating to the circle, encloses more space for its wall than the square, besides being more compact and available."

Fowler also advised his readers to raise the first floor sufficiently above the grade and enter the house through the basement. It would eliminate the cold winter winds from chilling the main rooms during the winter months. The basement should be converted to some good use. The kitchen and kitchen storage rooms should be in the basement.

Fowler wrote that corners of rooms are of little use because they are dark and it is difficult to arrange the furniture.

He also points out the advantages of octagonal houses, they receive twice as much direct sunlight through the windows from having eight walls instead of four. In the winter they were easier to heat because they had less exterior wall surface for heat loss. In the summer the rooms were cooled by opening the windows on the side from which the wind blew, opening the stair hall doors in the center of the house, and the cupola windows on the roof, thus creating a draft that would ventilate the entire house.



The stair hall should be in the center of the house enabling one to enter directly into the various rooms and thereby saving many steps. The arrangement of the rooms would be better because the rooms are united, and one can pass from one room to another without the necessity of passing through a cold and cheerless hall.

Encircling porches were also a favorite with Fowler, he said, "verandas are delightful places on which to spend twilight and moonlight evenings, in either promenading or conversation." "And the advantages of having them all around the house is considerable, allowing you to choose sun or shade, breeze or shelter from it, as comfort dictates."

# 1958 CONVENTION

## NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION of ARCHITECTS



John W. Briggs

The President of the Association, Harry M. Prince, has named John W. Briggs, First Vice-President, as General Chairman of the 1958 Convention to be held at Rochester, New York in October. Headquarters for the conclave will be at the Powers Hotel in downtown Rochester when the assembly meets from October 16th through the 18th.

The theme "Your Architect—Your City" has been selected by the convention committee around which the program will be planned.

Mr. Briggs has practised in the Rochester area for many years and his long service to the Association adds to his qualifications as chairman.

The Rochester Society of Architects is sponsoring the convention and Mr. Briggs has selected officers, directors and members to chairman their following respective committees:

### *Architectural Exhibits*

Daniel F. Giroux of the office of Conway L. Todd.

### *Commercial Exhibits*

Nicholas J. Masucci of the office of Waasdorp and Northrup, assisted by Roland A. Yeager.

### *Program and Seminars*

F. Allen Macomber of the office of Faragher and Macomber.

### *Publicity*

Thomas O. Morin of the office of Barrows, Parks, Morin, Hall and Brennan.

### *Reception and Hospitality*

Charles V. Northrup of the office of Waasdorp and Northrup.

### *Reservations and Registrations*

G. Carroll Madden of the office of Conway L. Todd.

### *Transportation*

John G. Low, Jr. of the office of Conway L. Todd.

### *Special Committee*

Donald M. Walzer of the office of Walzer and Miller.

### *Women's Committee*

Mrs. J. W. Briggs and Mrs. F. A. Macomber.

### *Convention Treasurer*

Keith A. Marvin of the office of the Rochester Board of Education.

### *Convention Secretary*

Miss Clare Meade of the office of John W. Briggs.

Much planning is already under way to provide a diversified program.

We hope you will plan now to journey to Rochester next fall—to attend your New York State Association of Architects 1958 Convention at the Powers Hotel October 16 to 18.

THOMAS O. MORIN

*Publicity Chairman*

## INSURANCE PLAN OF THE N.Y.S.A.A.

GEORGE J. CAVALIERI, *Chairman*

*Insurance Committee*

The Administrator of the New York State Association of Architects Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan, Ter Bush & Powell, Inc., has reported a sizable increase in the volume of illness claims filed by insured members, due to the "Asian Flu" and other respiratory infections, during recent months.

A study of the claims presented indicates that the "Flu" alone does not, as a rule, cause prolonged disabilities, but complications, such as pneumonia, following the initial attack have resulted in several weeks and, in many instances, months of lost business time for a number of members. Many of these members had never previously had an occasion to present a claim under the Plan and did not realize fully the value of income protection when ill and unable to work. Unpleasant as it was, the bout with the "Flu" did provide a practical demonstration of the insurance coverage available to the members of the New York State Association of Architects when an unforeseen disability strikes. The indemnities they received helped to defray the unexpected medical expenses they incurred and offset the loss of income they suffered.

Medical authorities forecast the possibility of a second and even a third wave of "Asian Flu." Whether

this comes about remains to be seen. Meanwhile, we are all vulnerable to the normal hazards and exposures of everyday living; the home and auto accidents, heart trouble, gall bladder attacks, etc.; all the unforeseen physical things that can result in loss of time from our work and income, plus the added expenses of medical and hospital bills.

Sound insurance protection against these contingencies, such as the low cost Plan sponsored by the New York State Association of Architects, is the answer to this problem and it is strongly urged that all of our members who have not given the matter consideration heretofore, look into this insurance program now, in their own best interests.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an announcement by Ter Bush & Powell, Inc. in regard to the increased benefits that have been extended to the members at no additional cost. If you are not a participant, you can still join the Plan and receive these increased benefits.

The details of the Plan can be obtained by contacting our Administrators, Ter Bush & Powell, Inc., at any of their three offices or the offices of N.Y.S.A.A.

# LAND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS IN A BUILDING PROGRAM

JAMES E. GLAVIN, JR., *Landscape Architect, A.S.L.A.*

Gone are the days when the school, the manufacturing concern, the church and retail establishment was located on an urban site barely large enough to accommodate the building itself. The rapid increase in population, the advent of the automobile age and the migration to the suburbs are but a few of the contributing factors that make the land planning requirements increasingly important. This is especially true in the rapidly growing fringes of metropolitan areas. Needless to say, site selection is the first major decision that must be made by the designer and client.

"As the twig is bent so grows the tree" is an apt saying at this state of a project study, for the ultimate success, designwise, usewise, and costwise is affected by the assets and liabilities of a particular piece of ground on which your client will make a major investment.

The recommendation of the design team must be justified by complete information on any or all sites studied. The central school or industrial concern must know during preliminary stages of design what costs are involved, not only on the basis of building cubage, but cubage *plus* costs of earthwork, storm drainage, sanitary sewage disposal, utilities such as power, telephone, gas, parking areas, athletic or recreational facilities, drives, walks, curbs, seeding and planting. On many types of projects the above "other than building costs" may run as high as twenty per cent of the total cost of construction. In addition to the above considerations, and no less important, is the nature of the soil from the standpoint of foundation costs. Taking all of the above items seriously therefore suggests to the designer the value of studying several sites. This involves much time, research and effort. It also involves option, survey and soil boring costs which must be met by the client. These costs are small compared to the total investment, and the information gained therefrom is necessary for the designer to justify the proper choice more intelligently. Past experience has proved the worth of such a program. Past experience has also proved the disastrous results of neglecting such a program under the guise of speed or expediency.

## SITE SELECTION

The general location of a site is most often predetermined by the owner. It is at this point that the design team should go into operation. A study of the land use programs established by the governmental planning agencies should be undertaken, as well as a study of U.S. Geological survey maps, zoning maps, arterial highway programs, water, sewage, drainage, park and recreational programs of the governmental agencies concerned. Some school districts and industries in central New York have, after long study, purchased sites now, for use when presently planned governmental facilities are in operation. The purchase cost of such property is usually attractive under such circumstances.

After careful analysis of the above let us assume that the search is narrowed down to three or four

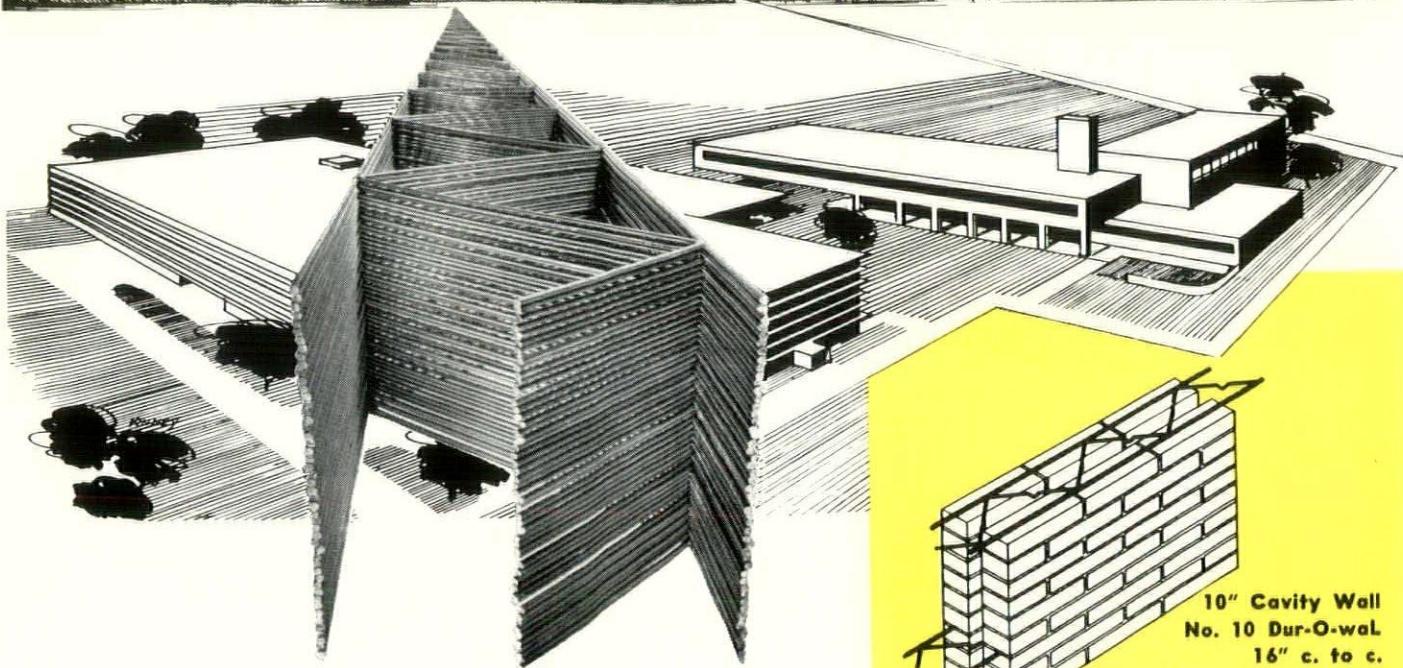
apparently desirable sites. It is then that the following check list may be of assistance in considering the pertinent items.

1. An option should be obtained on each site for a sufficient period of time to allow complete study.
2. A good topographic survey should be undertaken on each site. This survey need not be as complete as that required for the chosen site, and upon which the preliminary design and working drawings will be based. The judgment of the designer should govern the information needed at this stage.
3. Upon receipt of topographic surveys, preliminary studies should be undertaken on each site. This can best be accomplished by the coordinated efforts of all members of the design team. This coordinated effort should result in a set of solutions, each adapted to the individual site involved.
4. Based on the above, an exploratory soil boring program should be undertaken on each site. A competent soil boring firm should be engaged. The boring program should include sufficient holes to analyze general bearing conditions and also excavation problems within and outside the building area. It should be emphasized that water table elevations should be recorded a minimum of 24 hours after completion of each hole. (More on this subject by Prof. Goodman.)
5. If sanitary sewers are not available in the foreseeable future, percolation tests should be taken in the pertinent areas determined by the preliminary studies, so that reasonable cost estimates can be made. Adverse soil conditions could eliminate a site from consideration. New York State Health Department requirements should be kept in mind, with particular attention to adequate variation in grade, bearing in mind that if a sand filter must be used, an adequate flowing watercourse must be available for an outfall. Eight to ten feet below floor elevation is the usual minimum drop to such an outfall depending on building dimensions and size of siphon, but pumps may be used if other considerations make their use advisable.
6. Storm water disposal is a problem that could well eliminate a site from consideration. "Hemmed in" properties adjacent to or in villages or fast growing suburbs have dangerous legal implications unless an adequate stream or storm sewer is available. An easement may be the answer, requiring a legal and cost analysis of this problem. Approvals by the pertinent government agencies should be obtained before spilling large amounts of storm water in road ditches or culverts.

The Courts of this state have many law suits pending on this subject at the present time. It should not be regarded lightly.

(Continued on Page 33.)

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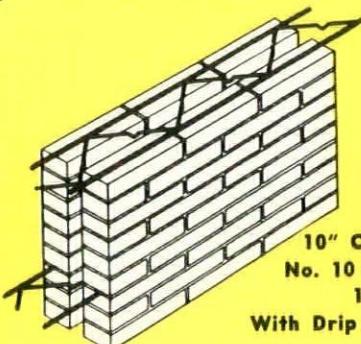


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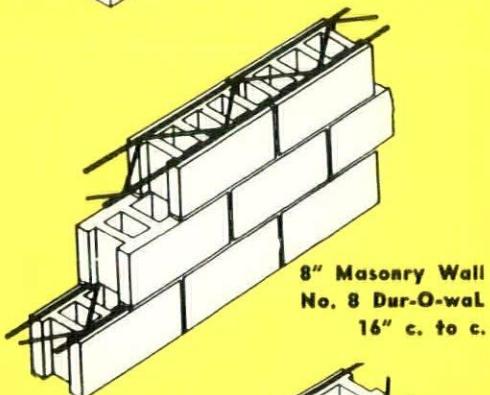
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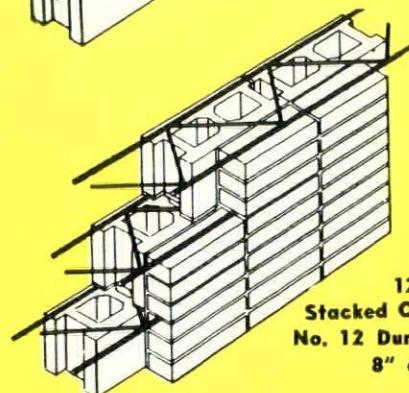
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12" Wall  
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8" c. to c.

# AMONG OUR CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

WARREN L. HENDERSON

327 Englewood Ave.

Syracuse, N. Y.

## • BROOKLYN CHAPTER

### COLOR CONSULTANT ADDRESSES NOVEMBER MEETING

Thanks to the efforts of the Current Work Committee, Rita Long, color consultant, addressed our meeting, and with the aid of slides, illustrated her method of working with architects to achieve a harmonious color scheme throughout a building.

Miss Long is a graduate of Cooper Union and is an instructor at the Pratt Institute Interiors Department. She is a stylist and consultant to architects and designers.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Current Work.* Chairman David N. Cybul reports a rising tide of sentiment for more time, possibly at special supplementary meetings for consideration and discussion of recent trends in Architectural design and new uses of materials. He asks for suggestions as to where and when such sessions should take place.

*Public Relations.* Chairman Joseph Krendel reports that Dean Olindo Grossi is enthusiastic about the opportunity to have our set of the 1957 AIA honor awards exhibited at the Pratt Institute. Other public institutions desiring to borrow the set for exhibition purposes will please apply to our president, Irving P. Marks.

*School Buildings.* Frederic P. Wiedersum reports his attendance, on behalf of the Brooklyn Chapter at the State AIA School Planning Committee meeting held in Syracuse, N. Y. on October 23rd, 1957.

The following matters were discussed at the Meeting:

1. National Board of Fire Underwriters' practices in determining insurance rates.
2. Problems of building maintenance.
3. Problems of interior repairs, interior toilets, and one story additions in relation to vandalism, as observed in New York City.
4. Problem of prefabricated school buildings.
5. Relations with General Contractors' Building Committee.

The minutes of this meeting and of CSB meeting held in Maine on September 20th and 21st, were displayed on our bulletin board at the November meeting of the chapter.

Our president, Irving P. Marks, and Mrs. Marks were invited to be the guests of the N.Y.S.A.A. at their annual banquet at the Commodore Hotel on December 12th.

## • CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

### HOSPITAL FORUM FEATURED

The University Club, Syracuse was the scene of the Central New York Chapter's December meeting, on the 7th. Thirty exhibits of the work of Chapter members were on display for the first time and will go to the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts and to Auburn, Rochester, Binghamton,

Watertown and Utica for public inspection during the remainder of the year.

Principal feature of the program was the hospital forum conducted by four architects with extensive experience in this field. The discussion was particularly timely, as Syracuse area residents are currently considering construction of a community hospital. As a result, a considerable number of fund raisers, hospital administrators and doctors sat in on the program. Taking part in the forum were Alonzo C. Clark of New York City, regional chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on Hospitals and Health, showing slides of the State of Maine Medical Center, Voorhees, Walker, Smith and Smith Architects; Leo Waasdorp of Rochester showing the Psychiatric Pavilion of the University of Rochester; Egbert Bagg III, of Utica showing St. Luke's Hospital of that city; and George Bain Cummings the Hancock General Hospital, Hancock, Delaware County.

Following this useful discussion was a brief business meeting.

## • NEW YORK CHAPTER

### FALL DINNER MEETING

Roger Allen's "First Hundred Years of Architecture" have indeed contained many amusing anecdotes if we are able to judge by his entertaining speech of November 6th. The Fall cocktail and dinner meeting was attended by the largest gathering ever for this occasion. A list of a few of Mr. Allen's observations had been previously published by the Chapter and the quotations offered therein gave us an enticing sample of Mr. Allen's humor. Those fortunate enough to attend the meeting, we're sure, will be able to relate to all just what "medicated marilla" consists of as well as the definition of a "migratory broadbeam of slackbooster!" Our thanks again to Roger Allen for a light and refreshing after-dinner speech.

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE DINNER

Solar Energy proved to be a most apropos topic for the Technical Committee's December 4th Dinner Meeting. Mr. John I. Yellott's informative and interesting lecture drew an exceptionally large and attentive group despite a blustery evening. All present certainly found the speech stimulating as to the application of solar energy to architecture.

Mr. Yellott's explanation of a potential lack of conventional heating fuels in the not too distant future clearly shows the necessity of extensive research in the solar energy problems and the application of the same. The year 2000 will show a definite shortage of these fuel deposits. Atomic energy will be used extensively for space heating and cooling. Thus, more efficient heat storage units and a simple heat-operated refrigeration system are the two most important developments to be achieved for widespread, economical usage of solar energy.

Slides, followed by a general discussion period, illustrated Mr. Yellott's technical

subject. Of special interest to the assembled architects, slides of the various winners and entries in the "International Solar House Architectural Competition" were shown—several of these appearing to be excellent solutions for "Living With The Sun."

### PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

Although the goal of \$20,000 for financing a Chapter public relations program has not been quite attained, the program itself officially launched January 1, by Edward Gottlieb & Associates, counsel retained for this important Chapter activity. The program itself will be guided by the Executive and the Public Relations Committees.

### ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBIT

"The New Churches of Germany," an exhibit consisting of photographs and colored stereo views, is now on view at the Goethe House, 120 East 56th Street. Arranged by G. E. Kidder Smith, noted architect and critic and member of the New York Chapter, the exhibit included 12 churches, most of which have been built in the Rhineland. The exhibit was open to the public without charge through December 14th.

### THE ARCHITECTURE OF DIPLOMACY

One of the outstanding exhibits of the year was shown at the Architectural League through January 10th—an exhibition of Embassy and Consulate Buildings commissioned by the Department of State. Sponsored by the Architectural League and the New York Chapter, A.I.A., together with Architectural Forum and Life Magazine, the exhibit represents the work of 30 different architectural firms, 6 of which are members of the New York Chapter. Based on the theme that "Good Architecture is Good Government" the representative architects were directed by the Advisory Board to use a direct and fresh approach and thereby achieve a distinguishable American flavor. American Architecture and the American Architect need have nothing to fear if these Embassy and Consulate Buildings are examples of the new century that beckons.

### HOSPITAL AND HEALTH COMMITTEE FIELD TRIP

A tour of the Riverside Hospital, Boonton, N. J., was scheduled for Saturday, January 18th at 11 o'clock. Arrangements were made by James B. Bell, A.I.A. First hand information relating to the operating performance of the 2000 bed hospital for its first twelve months was sufficiently instructive and rewarding to well justify the trip.

### THE ARCHITECT-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM LAUNCHED

"A major event in the history of the Institute and in the expansion of A.I.A. services to the profession is the inaugura-

(Continued on Page 22.)

tion of the Architect-in-Training Program. "It is recognized by the professional schools and the registration laws that the school cannot produce the completely trained architect. Education for the profession is a life-long process and this particular phase between college and registration is a vital part of the young architect's continuing education, preparing him to take his place in the profession as a competent practitioner.

"Inasmuch as the architectural profession cannot, by the nature of its operations, establish an intern program such as that operated by the medical profession, the initiative and the continuity must be provided largely by the candidate himself.

"The procedures have been kept as simple as possible to avoid excessive or-

ganizational and paper work at the chapter level. The candidate, a degree-holder who intends to seek registration, enrolls directly with the A.I.A. and receives from the Octagon a Log Book including sufficient recording forms for three years of office experience, a Log Book supplement which contains valuable references and material for continuing self-education, and a certificate of his enrollment as an Architect-in-Training. All enrolled candidates will receive from time to time additional material for the Log Book supplement which includes reference to all of the leading professional, technical and scientific organizations and trade associations in the building industry. The program has been approved by the National Council of Architectural Registrations

Boards although there is no official relationship between the candidate's Log of experience and the registration board of the state in which he seeks registration. The primary purpose of the program is not the achievement of registration but the enhancement of the candidate's continuing education in connection with his period of office experience.

"The responsibilities and duties of the A.I.A. chapter are to provide one or more advisors from among the chapter membership, assign candidates in the chapter area to an advisor, and arrange for at least one conference per year between advisor and candidate. Candidates, whether or not Junior or Associate members of the chapter, will be expected to participate in all educational and technical meetings conducted by the chapter. It is anticipated that in chapters where there may be a considerable number of candidates they may work with the chapter officers in the development of special courses for their benefit. Initially the program is limited to degree-holders. Later enrollment will be available to non-degree men screened by chapter committees.

"The employer architect has only one official responsibility. To initial the quarterly record sheets showing distribution of the candidate's time according to type of work, type and size of building. Employer's endorsements of the record sheets are for correctness of time records, not appraisal of the quality of work performed. Unofficially it is assumed that the employer, in the tradition of the profession, will be interested in the progress of the candidate and arrange for him to have the widest possible variety of experience."

(Reprinted from

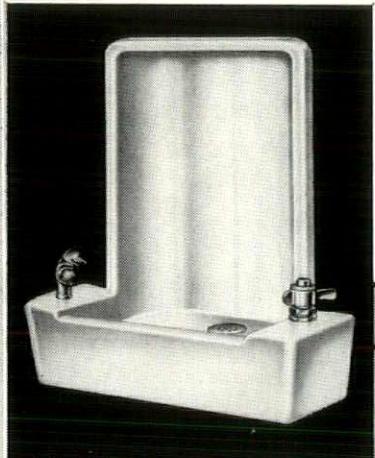
November 1957 Journal, A.I.A.)

The New York Chapter has been conducting one of four pilot runs testing the merit and operational features mentioned in the above transcript. Starting two years ago as a Chapter Education Committee project, 135 Architect-in-Training Candidates were enrolled from the offices with which the members of the Committee were associated, namely, Carson & Lundin; Kiff, Colean, Voss and Souder; Ketchum, Gina and Sharp; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Voorhees, Walker, Smith and Smith; Moore and Hutchins; and LaPierre, Litchfield and Partners.

The number was purposely limited to these offices because being a trial run the committee members preferred to have candidates with whom they would be in close contact, thus allowing more careful attention and observation. The Log Book in use was not that which is now prescribed by the National Organization, but a much simpler version which our Chapter deemed sufficient. However, in view of the launching of the national program and implications thereof, the local version will be terminated. However, the record included therein to date can be transferred to the new Log Book which the candidate will receive upon application to Washington.

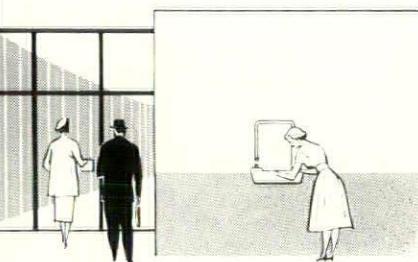
Application for national enrollment will be given by his Sponsor to each candidate now enrolled locally. Others who wish to be enrolled can obtain blanks at the Chapter Office. An enrollment fee of \$5.00 must accompany each application.

As these enrollments are approved in Washington they will be assigned Certificate numbers, the Chapter will be advised and members of the Education Sub-Committee for the Architect-in-Training will be appointed to interview the Candidate and start him on his way.



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## STUDENT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The New York Chapter welcomes as Student Associates 141 new student members. The 81 members from Columbia University's School of Architecture have elected Nelson T. Nordquist as President; John M. Baker, Vice-President; Claire de Reineck, Secretary; and Edward N. Simons, Treasurer. The Cooper Union Department of Architecture has 60 members with the following serving as their officers: Eugene Oranchak, President; Stanley Veyhl, Vice-President; Seymour Remen, Secretary-Treasurer. It is hoped that these 141 new members will avail themselves of the opportunities afforded through Chapter activities.

## HONORS

The National Institute for Architectural Education Board of Trustees elected the following Board members to serve as officers for the coming year: Chairman, Giorgio Cavaglieri, A.I.A.; Vice-Chairman, Joseph Judge; Secretary, Arthur S. Douglass, Jr., A.I.A., connected with Sweet's Catalogue Service; Treasurer, Otto J. Teegegen, F.A.I.A., State University Architect, State University of New York.

William Potter of the New York Chapter has been re-elected Chairman of the State Board of Examiners of Architects. Members of this Board are appointed for three year terms by the Regents of the University of the State of New York.

## • SYRACUSE SOCIETY

Continuing the Society's program of bi-weekly business meetings, (Thursday noon) and monthly speakers, December 5's feature was a talk by Harry A. King, member of the State Board of Examiners. Mr. King addressed his remarks chiefly to architect-aspirants, of course, but reminded all practitioners present of the responsibility inherent in the term "Architect." Of special interest was his account of the preparation of a typical examination and its review by the Board.

January's highlight was the showing, on the 9th, of a motion picture of the Syracuse University-Pitt football game last fall, described by Coach Roy Simmons. The membership enjoyed the film, in no small part due to the foresight displayed in requesting showing of a victorious game.

## • WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

### NOVEMBER MEETING

The feature of the evening was a very interesting and informative talk by Dr. Archibald Shaw, Superintendent of Scarsdale Schools, explaining the need of better cooperation between school architects and educators. He said too often, unfortunately, at meetings when both are present, the architect talks about educational processes and the educator talks about architecture. He emphasized the need of a type of design which would allow flexibility of interior partition arrangement to accommodate changing ideas in instruction technic.

Millard Whiteside explained that the December Chapter meeting would be a Christmas party for members only, at Dick Haye's Place. A bar will be set up to serve drinks at Chapter expense. Each member is expected to bring a small gift which will be distributed at random.

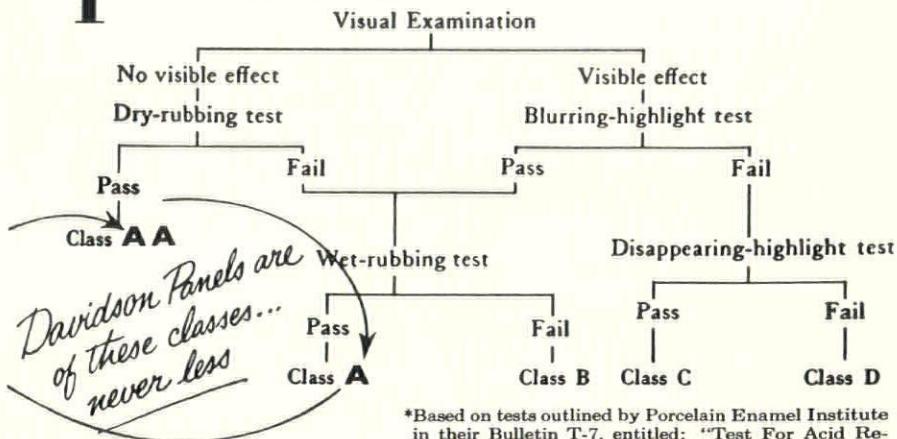
Millard also reported that he was looking for a place, other than Glen Island Casino, for the Scholarship Dinner Dance. He found that for a dollar more

(Continued on Page 26.)

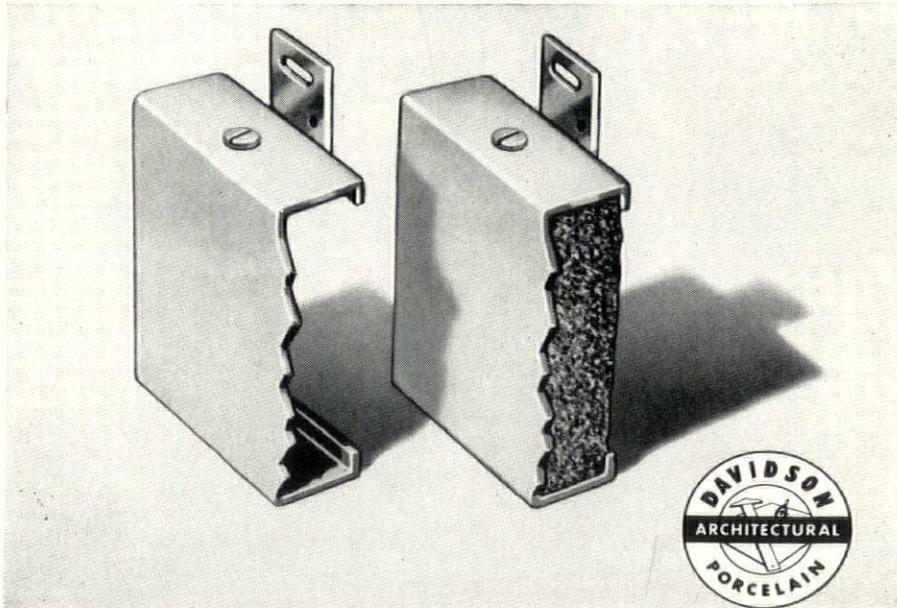
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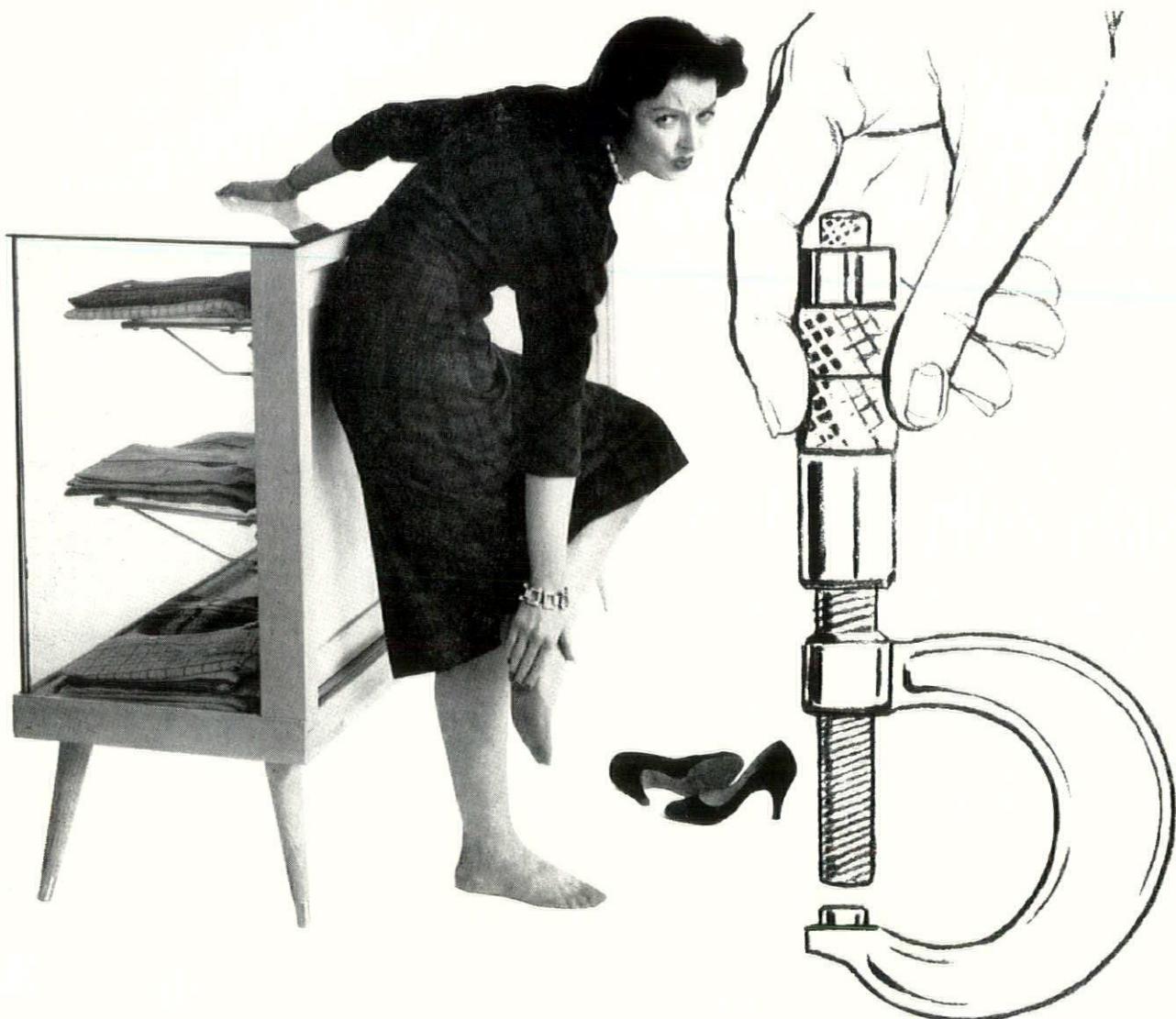
\*Based on tests outlined by Porcelain Enamel Institute in their Bulletin T-7, entitled: "Test For Acid Resistance Porcelain Enamel, Part 1 — Flatware".



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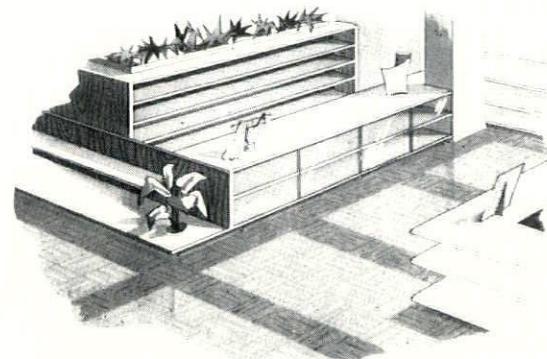
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# SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATIONS

BY LOUIS J. GOODMAN\*

The function of a properly designed foundation is to support the loads resting on it without causing excessive stresses within the soil mass at any depth beneath the foundation. Stresses are considered excessive if a complete rupture within the supporting soil mass occurs or if detrimental settlements result. No structure can perform any better than the foundation upon which it rests. Therefore, it is apparent that one of the most important steps in the solution of a foundation problem is determining the underground conditions that will affect the design. The field and laboratory investigations required to obtain the necessary information are called the subsurface investigation program.

Subsurface exploration programs are influenced by a number of factors, such as the size and type of project, general character of soils in the area of work, and the time available for the investigation. A relatively small project such as a light one-story building does not economically justify an extensive soil exploration program which would involve a large expenditure. Also, an elaborate exploration program consisting of considerable field and laboratory investigations would not be justified on sites where the subsoil conditions are erratic. For the latter case, strategically located drill holes with intermediate subsurface soundings would provide sufficient information for site appraisal and foundation purposes. This would result in economies in both expenditures and time with respect to field investigations.

Adequate and accurate subsurface data will enable the architect and engineers to design foundations with both safety and economy in mind. The possible savings in both time and money will more than pay for the cost of the subsurface investigation in many cases.

Subsurface investigations may be roughly subdivided into three classes:

1. Foundation investigations  
To investigate sites for new structures
2. Stability of failure investigations  
To investigate the cause of distress or failure of existing structures
3. Earthwork investigations  
To evaluate the suitability of natural materials for construction purposes

It is the purpose of this paper to concern itself with the foundation investigation aspect of subsurface exploration, or in other words site investigation for new structures. A summary of the various phases of a complete foundation investigation follows:

- A. Reconnaissance
  1. Geologic study
  2. Site inspection

The purpose of the reconnaissance is to determine the nature of the site and to estimate the soil conditions. The results of this study are useful in planning the exploratory investigation and in interpreting the results of the investigation.

## B. Preliminary Exploratory Investigation

Basic information required from the exploratory investigation is:

1. Depth, extent and composition of critical soil strata
2. Ground water level
3. Depth to rock when necessary
4. Estimate of engineering properties of the soil

Test boring and spoon sampling supplemented by test pits and auger boring are generally used to explore soil strata for foundation purposes while diamond drilling is required for rock. Preliminary borings usually should be obtained even before the purchase of a site, unless the underground conditions are fairly well known and are of a favorable nature. In many cases preliminary borings give all the information required for design purposes. In some cases preliminary borings may disclose difficult foundation conditions necessitating more detailed explorations.

## C. Detailed Exploration

1. Additional test borings
2. Undisturbed sampling if cohesive soils are encountered at critical depths
3. Laboratory and/or field tests if data on soil strength, settlement, etc. are needed

## D. Analysis of Results of Exploratory Investigations

1. Laboratory tests
  - (a) Classification tests to afford check on visual examination of soil samples
  - (b) Consolidation and shear tests where necessary for settlement studies and stability considerations
2. Plot boring records
  - (a) Prepare soil profiles
3. Evaluation of boring data
  - (a) Estimate bearing capacities
  - (b) Soil behavior predictions
  - (c) Foundation possibilities

## E. Economic Studies

1. Tentative designs and cost estimates for the different types of foundations which appear to be adapted to the site in question.

## F. Recommendations

Articles on depth and spacing of test borings, soil identification, purpose of laboratory tests, foundation types for difficult sites, earthwork control and vibroflotation will follow.

\* Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, Syracuse University; Consulting Soils Engineer

## AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

(Continued)

than last year's cost, we could have the use of the facilities of a country club. He recommended the replacement of the customary "floor show" with a better dance band and a good vocalist. He suggested for Chapter consideration the possibility of having a patronage listing on the back of the program to raise additional funds. Members having suggestions for the dinner were requested to get in touch with Millard.

Eli Rabineau reported the National Headquarters were considering the inclusion as corporate members in the A.I.A. persons, although not Architects, who are closely related to architecture and deserving such recognition, such as teachers or journalists. Also, consideration was being given to have associate members receive national status instead of chapter status, as at present. The Chapter decided that this be reported in the "Blueprint" and a discussion of the merits of these proposals be held at a future meeting, so that the Octagon may be advised of the Chapter attitude.

It was voted to award Norman Blair, because of his service to the Chapter, \$100 plus the first-class round trip railroad fare to the next National Convention, should he attend as a Chapter delegate.

The Chapter directed that a telegram of congratulations be sent to Mr. Benjamin H. Carroll, editor and general manager of the Reporter Dispatch, for being awarded the White Plains Merit Award.

Due to Carter Halbert's illness, Compton Miller was appointed to take over Carter's duties as Chairman of the committee on the Preservation of Historical Buildings.

Nomination requests and biographies of Mr. Alexander C. Robinson III of Cleveland, Ohio for national president and Mr. Louie L. Scribner, of Charlottesville, Virginia, for national secretary were read. The nomination petitions were circulated among the members for their signatures, which the Secretary was instructed to mail to the Chapters requesting the support.

### NOTES AND QUOTES

The Michigan Society of Architects came up with an idea which seems worth consideration by the Westchester Chapter.

The idea is a formal competition, not for architectural design but for outstanding architectural draftsmanship, with prizes of considerable value. Their competition was co-sponsored by the Michigan Blueprint and Reproduction Association, whose generosity made the prizes possible.

Much is heard these days about the difficulty of getting good draftsmen; and Architects say that too many students are being graduated from our architectural schools with inadequate drafting ability. The MSA-MBRA idea is a step toward counteracting these conditions. It may be a little step but it is in the right direction. Possibly the architects have not sufficiently emphasized the importance of good draftsmanship. Possibly the little step may be lengthened into a long stride. Possibly . . .

### DECEMBER MEETING

This joyous combination of business meeting and Christmas party was held at Dick Hazel's Restaurant. Each member present received a practical and/or stim-

ulating gift. Business was limited to consideration of the Scholarship Dinner and the 1958 Budget. The latter was adopted.

The Chapter insignia listed under "Architects" in the Yellow Pages of the Westchester Telephone Directories was dropped.

Millard Whiteside reported on the Scholarship Dinner. After some discussion, this is shaping up as follows:

*Title:* Westchester Chapter A.I.A. Annual Scholarship Dinner.

*Date:* May 22, 1958.

*Location:* Vernon Hills Country Club, Post Road, Tuckahoe, N. Y.

*Entertainment:* Improved.

*Cost:* Reasonable, but sufficient unto the price therefor.

### STATE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The following Westchester Chapter members have been appointed on the N.Y.S.A.A. Standing Committees for 1957-58: Awards, Donald Newman; Civil Defense, Compton Miller, Jr.; Confer With Other Professions, James Peck; Construction & Specifications, Robert McCoy; Contracts, Allen Tuttle; Convention 1958, Fred Sutton; Education, Harry McConnell; Ethics & Professional Practices, Gerison Hirsch; Fees, John Thompson, Jr.; Insurance, Emilio Di Renzo; Labor Law, Norman Blair, Michael Cardo; Publications, Laurence Loeb; Revision of By-Laws, Fred Voss; Resolutions, Eli Rabineau; School Buildings, Edward Fleagle; State Building Code Commission, Millard Whiteside.



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# THE ARCHITECT'S DILEMMA

BY CARL W. CLARK

The Architect's knowledge that buildings should be well and solidly constructed together with the continued and justified demand for economy creates difficult problems.

Architects know that buildings are erected for profit—to produce goods or other valuables such as good citizens from our schools and colleges; automobiles; washing machines; cultural advancement in the field of Fine Arts such as music, painting, sculpture, etc.

Architects know there is always a budget to keep within and good practitioners strive in all good conscience to meet set figures. They do this ever having in mind the fact that one is remembered by his words and product. From God and man made materials, an Architect designs a building and leaves in the completed structure permanent evidence of his character and philosophy of life—to say nothing of that of client and community.

Architects are faced with economic problems as are all citizens of our country. He must make a living and try to lay up a store of worldly goods for the day when business is poor or he is forced through circumstances to retire. In this day of high income tax and other tax problems, combined with high costs, he faces a dilemma. Incorporation is denied him in New York

State. No surplus can be laid aside for depreciation or obsolescence. No inventory is available for adjustment. No pension plans are available as they are in industry which benefit not only employees but principal as well.

With all known facts before him the good practitioner does a good and conscientious job. He realizes that immediate profit can be fleeting and that high reputation and understanding come gradually through years of effort. Because of all this the good practitioner thinks not only of providing floor spaces and enclosures. He considers the need for good construction, ease of function, maintenance through use of quality materials and choice selection of finishes without undue ornamentation or wasteful costs.

It is a fact that the poorest construction can save no more than four percent on a building project. Where budget figures are tight, the good practitioner designs his structure solidly and eliminates costly finishes. Those finishes which have to do with maintenance he either provides for well or is explicit in telling his client why other items of finish must be considered to reduce original costs. He also explains to his client that ultimate costs are increased, more often than not, when cheap materials are used. There is a happy medium we should strive for if high type services are to be rendered.

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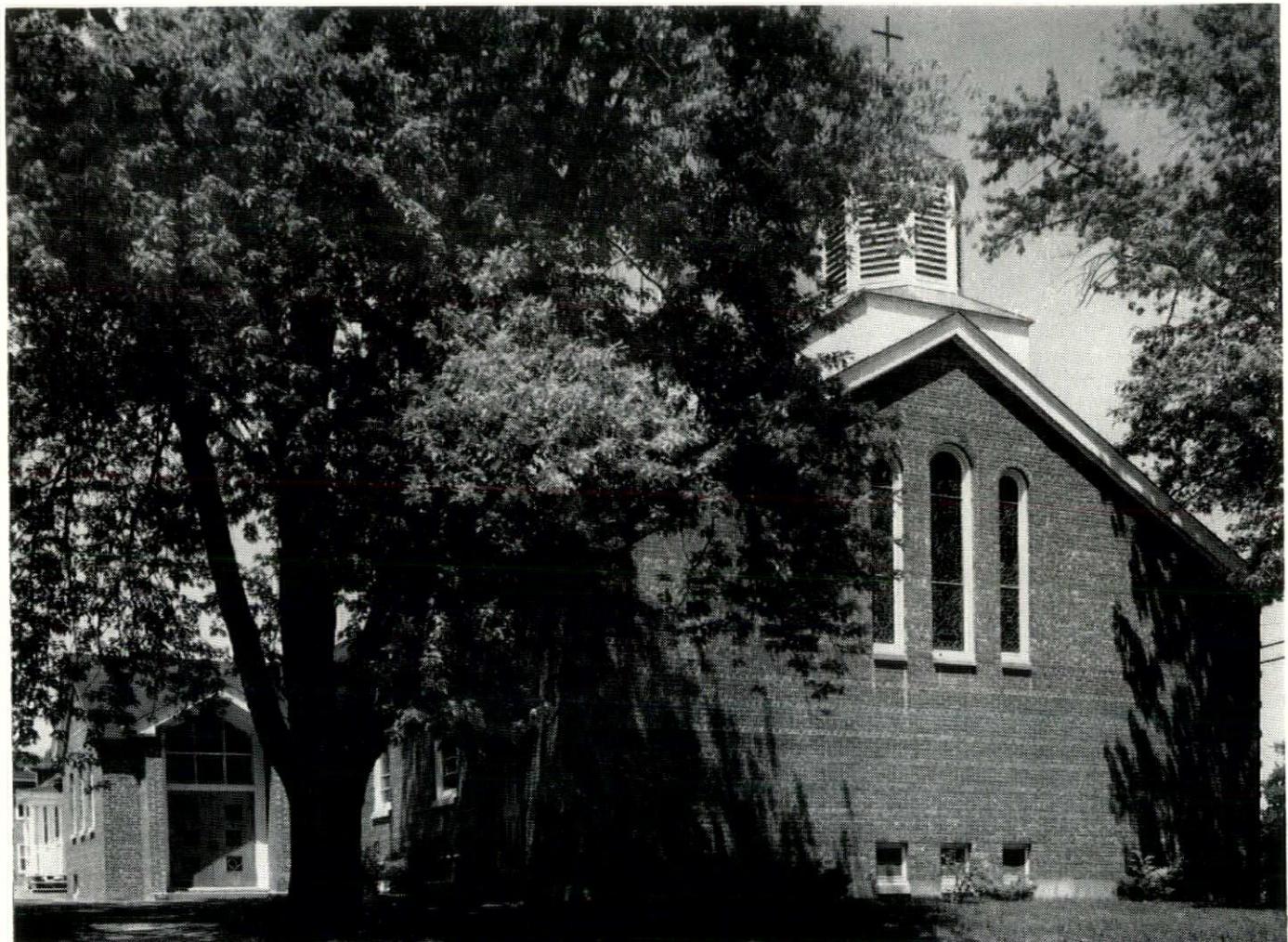
Descriptive folder with instructions for Specs-writers included in 1958 Sweet's Architectural File (5d/0s) and Industrial Construction File (3d/0s). Approved in Federal Specs TT-W-569 and TT-W-00571d.

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## ICICLES

BY MALCOLM B. MOYER

Prominent among the gremlins which bedevil the Architect are icicles.

Pitched roofs lend themselves to the formation of icicles. Their overhanging eaves are the chief offenders. The broader the eaves overhang, the greater will be the formation of ice and icicles.

Even the most heavily insulated roof will melt the snow which covers it, when the sun strikes it. The heat which escapes from the interior frequently continues the melting process, long after the sun has ceased to be effective.

The steady flow of water reaches the point where the overhang begins, but there it encounters the freezing temperature of the unheated eaves, and ice begins to form. It is not uncommon to find the eaves covered with four to six inches of firm ice. This dams the seepage of water and backs it up to a point where it begins to leak into the attic. Such leaks are most embarrassing, and impossible to correct at once.

The usual low cost treatment for wide overhanging eaves is the suspended gutter, but this quickly fills with ice and snow, and forms a rooting place for icicles.

Painting the outside of the eaves trough black will help concentrate solar heat for ice melting, but the "rain leader" or "down spout" can nullify the effort, if it becomes clogged with ice.

This down spout should also be painted black to utilize solar melting.

To meet this ice forming condition, certain electrical concerns have designed heating cables which can be laid on the bottom of the gutters, and hung inside the down spouts. These take a moderate amount of electricity and can be plugged into normal utility outlets when available.

If these cables are used on the eaves and in down spouts, sections should be laid diagonally across the ice field to melt a passage for the melted snow to traverse, where it can flow out to the edge of the overhang and into the gutters.

If the roof is not provided with gutters under the eaves, this cable can be attached directly to the edge of the roof to melt any roots of icicles which would otherwise form there.

The history of Architecture contains many illustrations of roof designs which have sought to conquer icicles. Box gutters have had their day—with success when new, but misery when they start to leak.

Simple water tight barriers placed far enough above the lower edge of the roof to permit inside rain leaders, frequently solve the problem. They must be accompanied with deep flashings.

Felt roofs, with a good underlay of insulation, heavily coated with sun reflecting white marble paint inhibit fast melting of snow, but do not blend with many Architectural treatments.

When buildings are designed in the heat of summer, icicles are never thought of. But when the owner in the midst of winter has to struggle with them, his thoughts of the Architect are not complimentary.

Icicles bear major consideration when the design embodies pitched roofs and deep overhanging eaves.

Electric ice melting has solved many a bad situation, but lack the test of time to establish predictable length of service.

Icicles will always merit serious consideration.

# THAT NECESSARY EVIL—THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER

BY THOMAS H. MCKAIG, Consulting Architectural Engineer

Long, long ago, away back in June 1930, I wrote one of these blurbs which, upon rereading, I find applies with equal force in 1958. Since most of you were not around then, I'm going to repeat the material—a list of those aggravating things, that go wrong or are not properly provided for, which make an architect or engineer wish he had been a Fuller Brush Salesman instead.

a) In a hotel or apartment house toilet, location of a steel beam so that it fouls toilet roughing.

b) In an office building or hotel, failure to locate mail chute till after steel is located, so that steel changes must be made to permit a straight run from top to bottom of mail chute.

c) Is there any place where the concrete slab should be depressed for shower stalls, or for urinals?

d) Curved beams require much thought, even for very light loads. They must be treated as cantilever beams, and rigid supports provided. Even 1/16" clearance in bolt holes permits them to sag.

e) Be sure bar joists are properly bridged and anchored during construction, even before the concrete is placed on them.

f) In wood truss construction, design every joint carefully. This is the weak point of all wood trusses and is often left to the carpenter to design.

g) Carefully check spandrel section to be sure the beam web occurs at the right point with relation to face of brickwork, and beam is at right level. Watch out for piers and chases.

h) Be sure a wood gable roof is properly supported

so that it will not spread. If the studs support the roof four or five feet above the attic floor line, it will almost invariably spread.

i) Watch out for possible retaining wall action in your basement concrete walls. This frequently shows up later on in cracked walls.

j) Watch out for settlement of mud sills during pouring of a concrete floor. More than once I have gone out to a job on the assurance of the architect that the slab had deflected several inches, to find when I got there that the forms had deflected under load of wet concrete.

k) If the engineer calls for long leaf yellow pine don't let the contractor put in hemlock of the same size.

l) Are you sure your elevator clearances are sufficient? Because you used a 4'-0" pit and 18'-0" overhead clearance on the last job, don't assume that they will do for this job.

m) Where you join to an existing building, don't assume that you can bear your beams and trusses wherever you want. Maybe it wasn't put in exactly as plans show.

n) Where precast gypsum or precast concrete roof slab is used, slope your steel one way only. Remember these slabs can't be ramped like poured in place slabs, and don't forget that gypsum floors or roofs require bracing trusses and tie rods, and sheet steel roofs require sag rods.

o) And don't forget that fruitful source of trouble—failure to shore banks, particularly near adjacent trees or buildings.



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## JOHN B. CUMMINGS HONORED

A director of the Central New York Chapter, A.I.A., was cited January 14, 1958, by the Binghamton Junior Chamber of Commerce as "Outstanding Young Man of the Year."

He is John B. Cummings, associate in the architectural firm of Conrad & Cummings, 99 Collier Street, Binghamton. He was honored as a leading young man in the Triple Cities area at the eighteenth annual Distinguished Service Award Dinner of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Cummings is president and a former secretary and vice-president of the Cerebral Palsy Association in Binghamton, and served as chairman of the Trade Groups Division in the United Fund's Torch Drive for 1958.

He is a former Binghamton District Boy Scout commissioner and a member of the Youth Work Committee of the Binghamton YMCA.

He also is a member of the Rotary Club of Binghamton.

In addition to being a director of the Central New York Chapter, Mr. Cummings is a member of the New York State Association of Architects. His father, George Bain Cummings, served as president of the Central New York Chapter, and of the national American Institute of Architects.

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## STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CODE Plumbing Standards

The new State Plumbing Standards, which are being promulgated early this year will become effective on August 15, 1958, in the communities which have accepted the State Building Construction Code.

Chairman Edward J. McGrew, Jr., points out that acceptance of the State Code will not mean that building sewers and water service pipes will be regulated by the state. Such regulations will remain in the hands of local officials.

There are now 231 communities using the State Code.

## WALTER P. McQUADE

Architect Walter P. McQuade died of a heart attack at his home in New York City on the afternoon of December 23, 1957.

As chief architect for the Port of New York Authority he designed prominent buildings in New York City. He retired in 1949. He was also editor of the magazine *The Architect* in the 1920's, practiced architecture independently, and had served as a consultant to the Rising and Nelson Slate Company and the Johns-Manville Corporation. Born in New York City 68 years ago, Mr. McQuade studied at the Prevot Atelier in New York and abroad. He served as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Service in World War I, and was a member of the American Institute of Architects. He is survived by his wife, the former Theresa Dwyer of New York, a daughter, Mrs. Edward Vastola, of Northport, Long Island, and a son, Walter McQuade, A.I.A., of New York City. He also leaves two grandchildren, and three sisters.

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### STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CON- GRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233)

Of Empire State Architect published 6 times a year at Buffalo, New York for Oct. 1, 1957.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher Julian L. Kahle, 547 Linwood Ave., Buffalo 9, N. Y.; Editor Warren N. Wittek, 230 Delaware Ave., Buffalo 2, N. Y.; Business manager Julian L. Kahle, 547 Linwood Ave., Buffalo 9, N. Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) New York State Association of Architects, 433 S. Salina St., Syracuse 2, N. Y.; Julian L. Kahle, 547 Linwood Ave., Buffalo 9, N. Y.

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## Land Planning Considerations (continued)

7. Water supply problems can also eliminate a site from consideration. During the site selection phase of a building program, in areas lacking water systems, a Geologist, familiar with the area, would be most valuable as a consultant to the client. On smaller projects, a history of water conditions in the area can be obtained from local well drillers and State Health Department Sanitary Engineers. The design team should carefully avoid any speculation on this subject.
8. The relationship of the building or buildings to existing power and gas facilities will affect the cost. Topographic and other considerations will affect the building locations, therefore this item is of some consequence in site comparisons.
9. General considerations affecting the study, of course, are well known, but for purposes of check listing it would be well to mention—

### a—Size

Is the site large enough to provide all needed facilities, even if all are not constructed under the initial contracts? Does it allow for reasonable and unforeseeable expansion?

### b—Shape

Does the shape allow solution of basic problems, without undue or excessive circulation patterns, utility lengths, etc.?

### c—Topography

Is it so steep as to incur excessive excavation and grading costs, with lost space in slope, and high maintenance costs as an added liability?

Is it so flat as to require excessive drainage facilities?

Can the excavation and fill be balanced on the site?

Complete site studies based on all the facts available must be the basis for justifiable comparative estimates for like facilities.

The client can then be presented with realistic fig-

ures that reflect many of the essential operations such as: clearing and grubbing; topsoil stripping; building and site excavation; rock excavation; grading; topsoil spread; seeding and mulching; road, parking area, bicycle and play court paving; walks and paths; curbs; steps; fences; catch basins; manholes; headwalls; storm and sanitary lines; septic tanks; siphon chambers; tile fields, sand filter beds or cesspools; chlorinators; rip rap; headwalls; hydrants; water lines; power service; telephone service; gas service; other special facilities such as railroad sidings, etc.

When comparative foundation costs are added to the above items the Architect can be satisfied that all informative needs for a given project are covered. It should clearly indicate that a round figure pulled out of a hat cannot and should not be added to a cubage figure as a basis for a project budget.

Assuming that the above studies and analyses have been completed, recommendations submitted, and the site purchased, the next step is the topographic survey, which will be covered in the next issue.

## NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

A statewide consulting engineer's organization known as the New York State Association of Consulting Engineers, Inc., has been recently organized and incorporated, with headquarters at 2507 James Street, Syracuse, New York. To date, the state association consists of the following chapters: Western New York, Central New York, and Rochester. Officers elected to serve until July of 1958 are:

Howard F. Eckerlin, President and Director

James N. DeSerio, Vice President and Director

Frank E. Kulas, Secretary-Treasurer and Director

Realto E. Cherne, Director

Paul Robson, Director

Donald Brill, Director

Membership in the State Association is restricted to Chapters whose members are consulting engineers in private practice.



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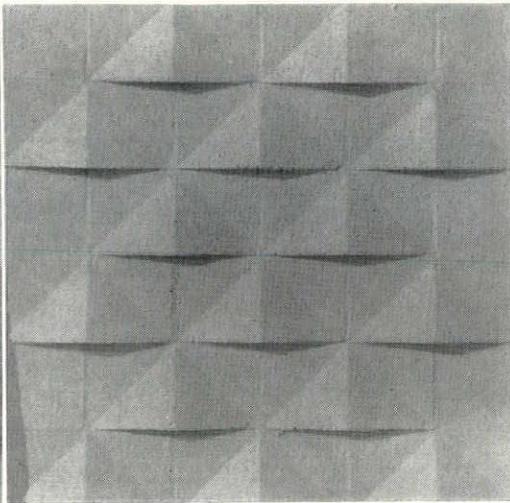
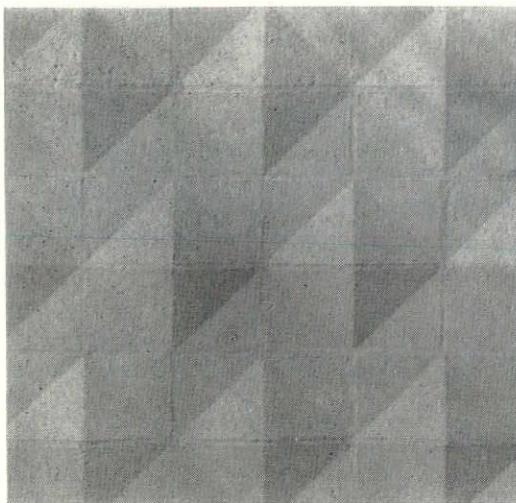
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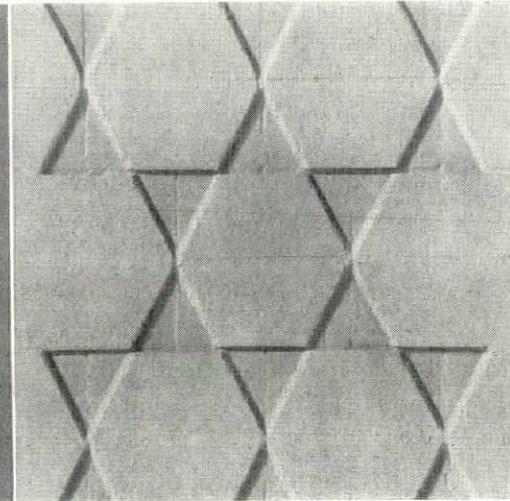
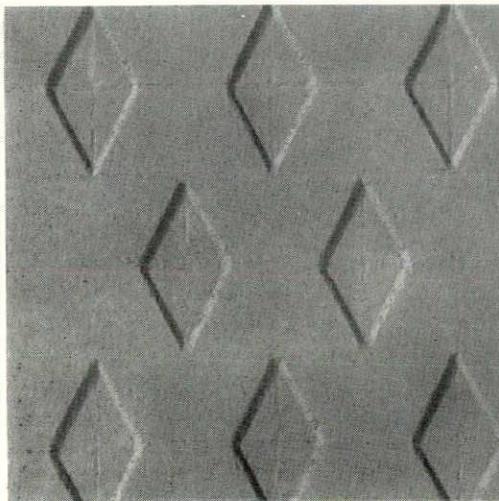
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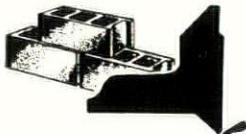
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